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VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

M A G A Z I N E

Breaking & Busting

The Coast Guard Fights
Our Longest Wars

282

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To insure the national security through maximum military strength
To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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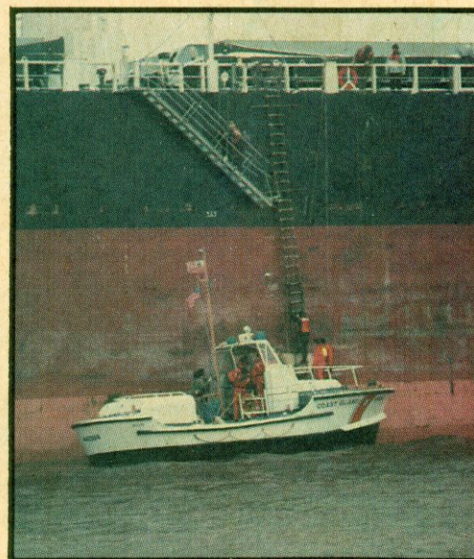
Breaking Ice

by Joan Maiman. Coast Guardsmen battle nature to keep shipping lines open.

'The Longest War'

To combat drug smuggling, the Coast Guard interdicts traffickers of contraband on the high seas.

PHOTO RIGHT: In addition to fighting crime and the elements of nature, the Coast Guard also offers aid and assistance to ships in distress. In November, when the tanker Socrates ran aground in Lake Superior near Duluth, a Coast Guard cutter was on the scene. (Photo by CWO D.A. Maldonado, USCG.)



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Cover: This illustration of a Coast Guard icebreaker at work was executed by Kendall Young, who recently joined the VFW Magazine staff.

The POW/MIA Issue



By John S. Staum
VFW Commander-in-Chief

THE VFW IS KNOWN AS AN ORGANIZATION willing to tackle the tough issues. Our willingness to face up to issues has earned us an important role in keeping faith with our nation's veterans and its servicemen and women.

One issue that is very important to the veteran, the serviceman and his family is the status of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia. January is an especially appropriate month in which to discuss the issue, for on Jan. 27, 1973, North Vietnam agreed to return the prisoners and account for the missing.

In connection with this anniversary, Jan. 26, a Sunday, has been designated the National Day of Prayer and Commemorative Candlelight Services to honor all POW/MIAs. Throughout the country, the time for this commemoration has been set for 3 p.m.

In my acceptance speech to the delegates to our 86th National Convention, I promised to keep the VFW's commitment to our missing men and to work hard for the fullest possible accounting of our comrades at the earliest opportunity.

In the short time I have served as your Commander-in-Chief, I have been asked a lot of questions about the POW/MIA issue. I am glad to hear these questions because it indicates to me that our members are

as concerned as I am about our missing men. I don't have all the answers, and there probably won't be any final answers until each of the 2,446 missing men has been returned home. But I will try to answer these most frequently asked questions.

QUESTION: *Is it true that Americans are still being held captive in Southeast Asia?*

ANSWER: I don't know whether Americans are being held captive in Vietnam or Laos, but I know our government has reports of Americans still alive in those countries. Our intelligence agencies have added

more personnel and resources so they can continue to investigate the 114 reports of live sightings. Almost one half of these reports indicate that the person who was observed was walking around freely and not under guard. This suggests the person may be a Russian or other European or an American who may have chosen to remain in Vietnam. There are 51 remaining reports of Americans in captivity, but most of the sightings occurred before 1978 and only two reports mention sightings of Caucasians since that time. All these reports are evidence that

continued on page 6

Remains of an American serviceman killed in 1968 during the Vietnam War are given full military honors at Hickam AFB in Hawaii. Four of the most recently identified remains were flown by an Air Force C-141 transport Nov. 8 to Travis AFB, Calif., while a fifth set was interned in Hawaii. One set of remains was of Navy Lt. Richard C. Sather, first American pilot shot down over North Vietnam. They were part of 26 returned by Vietnam Aug. 14. (USAF photo by Sgt. Laurie Wilson)



continued from page 4

Americans may still be in Southeast Asia, but none of the reports offers any conclusive proof.

Until this past August, the Vietnamese dismissed the live prisoner issue. They steadfastly insisted that no Americans remained in Southeast Asia. Then in August they told our negotiators that several live sighting reports had come to their attention and were investigated, but the reported individuals were not Americans. The Vietnamese pledged to continue such investigations in the future.

QUESTION: *What about the charge by some POW/MIA groups and individuals that the government is not doing enough to recover our men?*

ANSWER: This is a very puzzling claim. In the past it may have been true, but the results of the last four years suggest the government is working hard to resolve the issue.

Throughout the 1970s, the government did not aggressively pursue the effort to locate our men. In fact, both a Presidential and a Congressional commission concluded there were no live Americans and the remains of others would be next to impossible to recover. But the Reagan Administration ignored the commissions' conclusions and pledged itself to the fullest possible accounting of the men who are missing.

In the past few years good progress has been made. Since 1981, remains of 66 Americans have been recovered; the Vietnamese and Laotians have agreed to cooperate with the U.S. in the search for others; and just recently Hanoi offered a work plan to account for the missing Americans. The Vietnamese accepted the U.S. proposal to excavate together sites of downed U.S. aircraft in searching for missing U.S. servicemen's remains. On Nov. 19, a joint U.S.-Vietnamese team began working a B-52 site. Of the 26 sets of remains returned by the Vietnamese in August, 18 Americans have been identified. In Hawaii, the Central Identification Laboratory is work-

ing to identify the rest.

President Reagan has gone on record as saying he will take decisive action if he gets conclusive proof of Americans held captive in Southeast Asia. Until these POW/MIA groups which claim to have information about POWs provide it for verification, they cannot claim it is conclusive and the President cannot act. Any group or individual with information about POW/MIAs should turn it over to the proper authorities, because only the government has the resources to check the accuracy of information. That should be accepted as a patriotic duty by all Americans.

"I promised to keep the VFW's commitment to our missing men and to work hard for the fullest possible accounting of our comrades at the earliest opportunity."

QUESTION: *What is the VFW doing about the POW/MIAs?*

ANSWER: Since 1969, the VFW has been out in front on this tough issue. We insisted right at the start that our government aggressively pursue the POW/MIA issue and not allow it to be forgotten. With the POW/MIA Subcommittee of our National Security Committee leading the way, we pushed a public awareness campaign in cooperation with the National League of Families that has made millions of Americans realize that the Vietnam War is not over for the families of our missing men.

Through the POW/MIA Subcommittee and our State POW/MIA chairmen, we are trying to focus public pressure on the Vietnamese so that Hanoi realizes that all Americans, not just its veterans, insist on knowing what happened to the men left behind. Last year our organ-

ization started several initiatives to catch Hanoi's attention and speed up the recovery.

I believe it helped because soon afterward, the Vietnamese offered to resolve the issue in two years. In recent discussions with government officials in Washington, I told them we support this latest government-to-government effort to resolve the issue, but that we expect the government to use its full resources at maximum capacity to provide the fullest possible accounting of our men at the earliest opportunity.

We support the government-to-government approach. It is achieving results, and we urge national unity in support of the plan to resolve the issue over the next two years. We also support this approach because for years the Congress and the Administration were split on this issue. We now have a Congress and an Administration both firmly united behind this approach. That shows what this great country can do when it puts politics aside and sets out to get the job done.

QUESTION: *There was talk of establishing a special commission to examine the POW/MIA question. What is the VFW position on this?*

ANSWER: Our National Security Committee examined this issue at our last Convention and concluded there were both pros and cons to establishing a commission.

Resolution 404 recognized that there may be positive points to a POW/MIA commission, but there was no certainty a commission would not turn this humanitarian concern of ours into a political issue or sweep it aside as did two previous commissions.

Our committee also recognized that another commission might give the Vietnamese an excuse to walk out of the government-to-government meetings or stall the progress in moving forward with the two-year work plan. The committee recommended, however, and our delegates adopted a resolution which

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Plei Me

I read Vaughn Binzer's "Plei Me and the Men of October" (October) with a great deal of interest. During the Battle of Plei Me, I was the commander of the 310th Air Commando Squadron at Nha Trang. We worked on a daily basis with the 5th Special Forces Group, flying aerial resupply missions in twin-engined C-123 Providers to their widely scattered camps and teams, so we were somewhat familiar with their exposure and dangers.

Our involvement with Plei Me began with a rather normal request for an emergency airdrop mission at Plei Me in the middle of the afternoon. Our base commander, Col. Bob Jones, was put on the mission purely through "first in, first out" scheduling.

I met him when he completed the mission and asked him how it was. In one word, his description was "Rough!" That mission began one of the longest weeks I ever put in. Before the siege at Plei Me was lifted, the 310th had airdropped just under 500,000 pounds of supplies within the compound.

Our drops were made at treetop level at low airspeeds on straight predictable courses, so we were great big birds just waiting to be hit by ground fire—and we were. Also each load required two passes. Of the missions we flew into Plei Me that week, only two or three of the aircraft involved did not receive any battle damage.

On my first mission into Plei Me, my left engine was shot out, some of my control cables were cut, and numerous other systems on the aircraft were damaged. My experience was not unique during that period.

Following the lifting of the siege, Col. Bill McKean, then commanding officer of the 5th Special Forces Group, presented the squadron a plaque expressing his appreciation for our help. I certainly would not like to go through it again, but I consider Plei Me the finest example of cooperation and coordination of air and ground forces I ever saw in

action, and I'm proud to have been a part of it.—*W.A. McLaughlin, 807 N.W. 11th St., Mineral Wells, Texas 76067.*

Pershing

The story on Gen. John J. Pershing (November) was really heartwarming. He should be classed as one of the greatest generals of all time, barring none. My late brother-in-law told me he saw Gen. Pershing in France before the big push. Gen. Pershing will be long remembered by the veterans of WWI and WWII and other wars. His kind of greatness only comes once in a lifetime.—*Joseph Thaddeus Kasprzak, 6721 Roberts Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21222.*

More on Tuscania

Your story about the HMS Tuscania, "When Torpedoes Struck" (November) was outstanding!

I would like to add some information to that offered by author Dan McCarthy. Some readers may have been puzzled by the identification of Herbert Gustafson's and Roy Mancaster's units in the 20th Engineers.

The 20th Engineers (Forestry) was the largest regiment ever sent into the field by the U.S. Army. On Oct. 18, 1918, General Order No. 47 combined the 10th Engineers (Forestry), the 20th Engineers (Forestry) and 41st, 42nd and 43rd Engineers (Road and Bridge) into one regiment, the 20th. This reorganized regiment consisted of 14 battalion headquarters and 49 forestry companies.

Seven engineer battalions (503rd, 507th, 517th, 519th, 523rd, 531st and 533rd) were reorganized as service companies (forestry) and added to the 20th Engineers. This gave the 20th a total strength of 18,359 officers and men. Prior to the reorganization, the companies of the 20th's 10 battalions were identified by letters. After the reorganization,

the companies were numbered 1-49 (1-18 for the service companies). Only the 6th Battalion (16th, 17th and 18th Companies) of the 20th was on board the Tuscania.

Toward the end of his article Mr. McCarthy writes that the 20th was a part of the 41st Division. This is not correct. The 116th Engineers served with the 41st Division, and when that division became a depot division, the 116th was sent to Angers, France, where it became a replacement depot, forwarding a total of 29,000 engineer replacements to other engineer units throughout France.

Hats off to Dan McCarthy for a fine article.—*Mike Johnson, RR 3, Princeton, Ill. 61356.*

I enjoyed Dan B. McCarthy's story "When Torpedoes Struck" (November). I thought that you might like to know that a distinguished folk hero was also on the Tuscania when she was torpedoed in sight of the Irish coast. Harry Truman, of Mt. St. Helens fame, was also on board the Tuscania when she was torpedoed. He was a member of the 100th Aero Squadron. Harry Truman was that feisty, cantankerous old man who refused to leave his beloved Mt. St. Helens lodge and was killed in the May 18, 1980, volcanic eruption.

Shirley Rosen, a niece of Truman, tells about Truman surviving the sinking of the Tuscania in her book, "Truman of St. Helens, The Man and His Mountain." Perhaps some readers and other survivors might find Truman's life story as interesting as I did. I also enjoyed the August issue story about the Coast Guard. I proudly served in the Coast Guard amphibious forces during WWII in the occupation of Japan, plus, being part of a Navy-Coast Guard team that cleared the Sea of Japan of more than 1,000 dangerous mines.—*N.B. Gardner, Toutle, Wash.*

LEGISLATIVE

VA Pursues Its Debtors: More than a million Americans owe the Veterans Administration, and 600,000 of them are not on VA rolls for any form of compensation or entitlements and therefore the VA has no direct means of collecting what amounts to approximately \$600 million in delinquent payments, reports Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office.

When the VFW Washington Office investigated this VA assertion, Holt found that the majority of these debts result from education overpayments and education loans, the rest from compensation, pensions and other benefits.

During January, February and March, the VA is planning to mail some 600,000 letters to delinquent debtors as, the VFW has learned, part of a government-wide program of referring such accounts to the IRS if the money cannot be collected by direct contact with the persons involved, or if payment is not made or a definite repayment plan is not received within 60 days of the letter's date. IRS will withhold all or some of the debtor's tax refund to offset the debt owed to the VA. For example, if the debt is \$300 and the debtor is due \$500 from IRS, he will get \$200. If there is no refund, or the refund does not cover the debt, it will be referred to the IRS for the next tax year. For example, if the refund due is \$300 and the debt is \$500, the debtor will get no money back, and the remaining \$200 owed will be offset from a future tax refund.

Veterans who recently repaid their debts or established a repayment plan should notify the VA immediately if they receive one of the tax refund offset letters. Also, veterans who have a bonafide dispute over the amount of a debt should contact the VA's Central Accounts Receivable Office in St. Paul, Minn., after getting the letter. Disputes will be resolved before actual referrals to the IRS are made. The VA advises, however, that it anticipates no delay in making referrals to the IRS where the disputed debt is found to be valid.

VA's intensified effort to collect delinquent debts is based on Public Law 97-365, the Debt Collection Act of 1982. This law encourages agencies, such as the VA, to exercise greater authority in collecting debts owed to the federal government.

Under the law, the VA also has begun referring delinquent debtors to credit reporting agencies. If a veteran who owes, say \$800, refuses to pay after being notified and after being given a chance to dispute the debt or after defaulting on a repayment plan and being told it remains a valid debt that must

be paid, he will be listed with credit reporting agencies as having failed to satisfy a debt to the VA. This will endanger his credit rating.

VFW supports responsible collection of proper and just debts from veterans. But it must be done in keeping with the VA's mission of service with compassion and dignity. Holt notes that the VFW recognizes that lawful debts must be paid to keep the VA in the best possible position of caring for the needs of the nation's veterans.

VA failure to collect from its debtors could mean that the Office of Management and Budget will force the VA Administrator to join other federal agencies by turning over VA collection efforts to profit-making collection agencies that work on a commission basis.

VFW agrees with Walters's stated adamant refusal to use such agencies to recover money owed the VA. VFW always rejected use of commercial collection agencies. Their employees would not appreciate the VA's unique clientele or its mission of compassion and dignity for veterans and their survivors.

For veterans, who justifiably owe money to the VA, it is best to repay their debts before they are reported to the IRS or a credit rating agency. If there are questions or disputes about these debts, the VFW's Department Service Officers are prepared to assist any veteran.

VA Compensation and Medical Care: During Senate deliberations on the so-called Gramm-Rudman balanced budget proposal, an important veterans amendment was offered by Sens. Donald Riegle and Alan Cranston. Purpose of the Riegle-Cranston Amendment was to exempt VA service connected compensation from the Gramm-Rudman Amendment's emergency orders provision reducing cost-of-living increases and to protect the VA medical care program by assuring funding at no less than the previous year's level.

Most unfortunately, this amendment was tabled. This is to say killed in the Senate. Following is a listing of Senators who voted to kill the Riegle-Cranston Amendment, those who voted for its passage and those who did not vote at all.

Here's how they voted:

To kill:

Armstrong, Bingaman, Boren, Boschwitz, Chafee, Cochran, D'Amato, Danforth, Denton, Dodd, Dole, Domenici, Durenberger, East, Evans, Garn, Goldwater, Gorton, Gramm, Grassley, Hatch, Hatfield, Hecht, Heinz, Helms, Kassebaum, Kasten, Laxalt,

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Long, Lugar, Mathias, Mattingly, McClure, McConnell, Murkowski, Nickles, Nunn, Packwood, Proxmire, Quayle, Roth, Rudman, Simpson, Stafford, Stevens, Symms, Thurmond, Tribble, Wallop, Warner and Wilson.

To pass:

Abdnor, Andrews, Baucus, Bentsen, Bradley, Cranston, DeConcini, Dixon, Eagleton, Exon, Hart, Hawkins, Heflin, Hollings, Inouye, Leahy, Levin, Matsunaga, Melcher, Metzenbaum, Pryor, Riegle, Rockefeller, Sarbanes and Sasser. Bumpers, Burdick, Byrd, Chiles, Ford, Glenn, Gore, Harkin, Johnston, Kennedy, Kerry, Lautenberg, Mitchell, Moynihan, Pell, Pressler, Simon, Specter and Stennis.

Not voting:

Biden, Humphrey, Weicker and Zorinsky.

* * *

Korean War Memorial: Under suspension of the rules, the House passed H.R. 2205, as amended, to erect a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor U.S. Armed Forces members who served in the Korean War.

In the three short years between 1950 and 1953, some 53,000 Americans were killed in Korea. As a point of comparison, the Vietnam War lasted 11 years and claimed 58,000 American lives. More than 5.7 million American servicemen and servicewomen served under the flag of the then-infant United Nations. It is impossible to overstate the sacrifices made by these Americans. The Korean War illustrated this country's willingness and ability to answer her commitments. This would have been impossible without the brave men and women who served in the Korean War. An appropriate memorial to those who served in the Korean War is a long overdue, much deserved tribute.

This bill was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Nov. 7 where it is awaiting further action.

* * *

Women in Armed Forces Memorial: Under suspension of the rules, the House of Representatives passed H.J. Res. 36, as amended, authorizing establishment of a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs honoring the thousands of women who have served in the Armed Forces.

While women have played a crucial role in the defense of our nation, the nation has yet to recognize properly their enormous contributions. Women were integral to this nation's first efforts for independence. Several thousand women served in the

Revolution. Women also experienced combat action during the Civil War.

The advent of World War II saw the role of women in the military change when women entered and mastered jobs previously restricted to men. During World War II, 265,000 women were recruited into the Armed Forces. Today more than 200,000 women are on active duty in the Armed Forces. H.J. Res. 36 was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Nov. 7 where it is awaiting further action.

* * *

New GI Bill: Based on two days of briefings from 27 witnesses, a Congressional subcommittee has concluded that the new GI Bill, implemented fewer than five months ago, is already a demonstrated success, though some fine-tuning might be necessary.

The Army claimed dramatic participation improvements over the Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP), the program that the new GI Bill replaced. The GI Bill has higher benefit levels. The Army enlisted 2,300 more high quality males in the first quarter of the new GI Bill than it did in FY 1984, a 17% increase. Army statistics for the same period show enlistments of 1,541 additional young persons in the top two test categories. The Army Reserve credits the new GI Bill with influencing the 130% increase in the number of quality males who enlisted for six years during the fourth quarter of FY 1985. VFW was instrumental in implementing this new veterans' educational assistance program and is extremely gratified with its early success.

* * *

Recent Testimony: Before Senate Committee on Small Business, with respect to Small Business Administration's activities in the area of special assistance to veterans, VFW testified that SBA officials charged with implementing the mandated "special consideration" for veterans are men and women of goodwill and commitment. The VFW believes the Office of Veterans Affairs is acting properly as an advocate for veterans in business and managing efforts to assist the veteran entrepreneur. Little statistical data can be used to verify effectiveness of veterans' programs or to surface areas where a remedial effort might be in order. To accomplish this, VFW expects the SBA to refine its statistical data to enable it to gather and publish materials confirming the full range of its service to veterans. Specific assistance to veterans in the preparation of

WASHINGTON WIRE

loan application packages similar to those available to minority groups and women should be provided. Further, action to aid veteran small business entrepreneurs in obtaining a fair share of government procurement contracts is now essential.

SERVICE

CESVE Chairman: Coy G. Eklund, 70, retired chairman and chief executive officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of America, has been named to chair the VA's Committee for Employer Support of Veterans Employment (CESVE). VA Administrator Harry N. Walters said Eklund, a former Army lieutenant colonel, will spearhead the committee's drive to make employers aware of the many skills veterans develop in the military that make them good private-sector employees. The committee currently has the backing of more than 7,000 employers nationwide. Walters, former president and chief executive officer of the Potsdam Paper Corp., formed the committee last year. He called on influential industry and labor leaders to serve on the 25-member panel. The members — all veterans — are charged with the responsibility of creating a positive climate for the employment of veterans by highlighting the many job skills and personal qualities developed during an individual's military career. Eklund began his insurance career with Equitable in 1938. In 1942 he entered the Army as a second lieutenant and saw World War II service in Europe on the staff of Gen. George S. Patton. He was named chairman and chief executive officer to the Equitable in 1982. He retired in 1983. He is a member of the President's Commission on Executive Exchange and chairman of the President's Council for International Youth Exchange.

* * *

VA Home Loan Rate At Six-Year Low: VA reduced its maximum home loan interest rate from 11½% to 11% effective Nov. 20. Noting that the 11% rate is the lowest in over six years, VA Administrator Harry N. Walters said the reduction is a sign of continued improvement in the mortgage market. Walters said many veterans with VA home loans with interest rates as high as 17½% may be able to refinance their loans at the new lower rate. This was the fourth decrease in VA home loan rates in 1985. The VA also will decrease by half a percentage point the maximum rates for Graduated Payment Mortgages to 11¼% and home improvement loans to 12½%. Rates for manufactured homes also will be decreased. Rate change does not affect existing loans whose interest rate remains the same for the life of the agreement.

SECURITY

Espionage Becomes Major Issue: In a little more than a year, a dozen or more Americans have been accused of spying. These are not ordinary Americans.

Richard W. Miller was an FBI agent when he sold secrets to a Soviet emigre woman. Karl F. Koecher was a former CIA employee, accused of spying for Communist-ruled Czechoslovakia. Thomas P. Cavanagh was a Northrop Corp. engineer. The Walker family of father, son and uncle worked on behalf of the Soviet Union. Two of them were retired Navy officers, the third a yeoman aboard the Nimitz. A fourth member of the ring, described by federal officials as the largest and most damaging in recent history, was a retired Navy enlisted man.

Sharon M. Scranage, a clerk in the CIA's Ghana station, was charged last July with passing secrets to her Ghanaian lover. In October, Edward L. Howard, a former CIA officer who has fled the country, was accused of passing intelligence information to the Soviet Union in 1984.

Then in rapid succession late in November, four more were arrested and accused of espionage. They were Jonathan Jay Pollard, a civilian employee of the Naval Investigative Service, charged with spying for Israel, and his wife, Anne, who was accused of unauthorized possession of national defense information; Larry Wu-Tai Chin, a retired CIA analyst said to have been spying for China for 30 years; and Ronald W. Pelton, a former NSA communications expert, who is accused of spying for the Soviets while working for the hush-hush agency for 14 years, from 1965 to 1979.

Several intelligence experts discussed these cases on a spate of television talk shows after the last four cases broke. All, including FBI Director William Webster, agreed that money, not ideology, was the reason. Pollard was quoted as saying he was down to his last \$6, a bowling ball and some other odds and ends when he was arrested.

At the 1985 National Convention, the VFW adopted Resolution 473 calling for the death penalty for spies. Bills have been introduced in Congress to do just this, and Secretary of the Navy John Lehman added his voice to the cry for the noose after the Walker cases were disposed of. Spying is not just another "white collar crime," Lehman said, objecting to the plea bargaining that preceded the sentencing. Resolution 473 puts the VFW on record as supporting "legislation that calls for the death penalty for those individuals found guilty of acts of spying and of passing along to a foreign power information or materials that are highly classified."

Price Chairs Bond Unit

Director of the VFW's National Community Activities and Americanism Programs, Raymond N. Price, has been named to chair the National Organizations Committee for U.S. Savings Bonds.

Price's appointment was made recently by Katherine D. Ortega, Treasurer of the United States.

A veteran of Korea and Vietnam, Price came to National Headquarters in 1974 as Americanism director, and in 1981 he was appointed also Community Activities director.

After 20 years of service in the Marine Corps, Price retired as a gunnery sergeant and entered Central Missouri State University where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Before his appointment to the chairmanship of the National Organizations Committee for U.S. Savings Bonds, Price had served as a member since 1981. His predecessor as director of Community Activities, H.R. (Andy) Anderson, had served on the committee for 17 years.

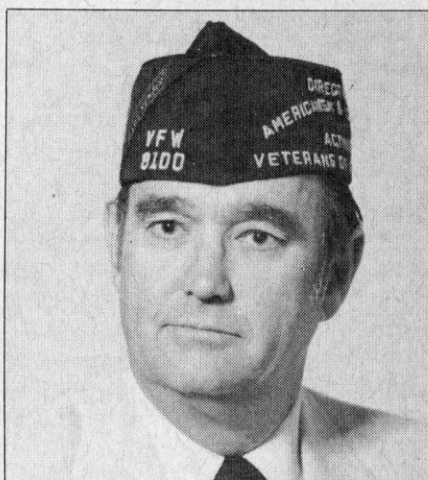
Price explains that his responsibility will consist largely of promotion and sale of U.S. Savings Bonds, an effort which has long had the support of the VFW.

The committee Price chairs is one of three the Treasury Department has organized to stimulate bond sales. The other two are the U.S. Savings Bonds Volunteer Committee, headed by Robert E. Mercer, chairman and chief executive officer of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., and the National Labor Committee for U.S. Savings Bonds, chaired by Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO.

Price's appointment came on the heels of the Treasury Department's announcement that Series EE Savings Bonds will receive an 8.36% interest rate for interest periods between Nov. 1, 1985, and April 30, 1986.

Making the announcement, Treasurer Ortega said rates on Series EE Bonds are set at 85% of the average rates in the market of five-year

Treasury marketable securities during the past six months. The latest rate is the seventh semi-annual "market-based" rate to take effect since variable rates for Savings Bonds were introduced on Nov. 1, 1982. The previous rate, in effect from May 1 through Oct. 31, 1985, was 9.49%.



She said the new rate will continue the bonds' "competitive stance among savings instruments." She added that she looks forward to continuing sales gains in 1986.

Last year, she said, sales increased by 29% to more than \$5 billion.

Market-based rates apply to new EE Bonds if they are held at least five years, with yields at the time of redemption based on the average of semi-annual rates applying during the holding period. Older EE Bonds, as well as Series E Bonds and Savings Notes, also receive market-based rates if held and earning interest for at least 10 semi-annual interest periods beginning on or after Nov. 1, 1982. Savings Bonds rates are changed semi-annually, Nov. 1 and May 1.

Black Hero Honored

The Navy's first ship in more than 13 years to be named for a black American is to be launched Jan. 11 at Todd Shipyards in San Pedro, Calif.

It is the guided missile fast frigate

USS Rodney Maxwell Davis (FFG-60), one of the Oliver Hazard Perry class.

Davis, a Marine Corps sergeant and native of Macon, Ga., earned the Medal of Honor posthumously on Sept. 6, 1967, in Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division when he threw himself on a grenade that had landed in a trench in the midst of his men. Before this, he had gone from man to man to encourage each one in the face of an attack by a numerically superior force of North Vietnamese regulars.

Boost VGLI, Says VA

VA is considering proposals to encourage more recently discharged GIs to apply for Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage. VGLI membership currently numbers about 258,000, and the VA would like to double that number. The VGLI program, an extension of the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance program, gives former servicemen and women up to one year from date of discharge to apply for low-cost VGLI term coverage, regardless of their physical condition. They have an additional year beyond that to apply, but they have to meet good health standards.

AO and Birth Defects

The VA has published a monograph on birth defects and genetic counseling.

This monograph was prepared by the VA's Agent Orange Projects Office as a basic information resource for physicians and other health care professionals having no special expertise regarding the etiology of birth defects.

The VA is currently in the process of making widespread internal and external distribution of the monograph to individuals and institutions concerned about the possible relationship of the exposure of Vietnam veterans to Agent Orange and birth defects in their offspring.

A Poppy First

The VFW Buddy Poppy Program has a different look this year. For the first time in its history, a boy has been chosen to represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars nationally instead of a girl.



Nine-year-old Earl Grant Deterding, the Buddy Poppy Boy, lives at the VFW National Home near Eaton Rapids, Mich., in Ohio House. He came to the Home in July, 1981, sponsored by Nebraska Post 2543. Earl's three brothers and sister are also in Ohio House, along with a house-sister. His houseparents, Bon-

nie and Don Kile, are proud of him for the way he has handled his recognition as Buddy Poppy Boy.

Decked out in a new suit and tie and wearing his white Buddy Poppy hat, Earl was introduced to delegates at the VFW National Convention in August. Although overwhelmed by the vast crowd, Earl was a big hit with his handsome grin.

Earl is in the third grade at Northwestern Elementary in Eaton Rapids. He attends church regularly with his family.

Home Receives Pony

The first pony donated to the VFW National Home by a Post or Ladies Auxiliary recently was given by a Taylor, Mich., unit. Post 4422 and its Ladies Auxiliary made the presentation to Home Executive Director Ted Wilson, Ted Ochletree and the Home's 4-H Club. Named "John Boy," the pony was given to the Post and Auxiliary by Mr. and Mrs. George Brubaker, members of the Taylor Post and Auxiliary. Presenting the pony to the Home authorities were Post Commander John Barrett and Auxiliary President Ruth Whicker, who received from Wilson citations

of thanks for the Post's and Auxiliary's years of service to the VFW National Home. The pony will be cared for by the 4-H Club.

New Nat'l Home Officers

Past President Florence Taylor has been elected president of the VFW National Home for 1985-86, while Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Hansen has been elected vice president. Ronald G. Tyler, Jr., has been elected trustee, representing District 3, and Vivian Walters has been elected trustee to represent District 4.

Home Thanks Wyoming

The VFW National Home would like to recognize the Department of Wyoming VFW and Ladies Auxiliary for raising more than \$2,000 for use for education at the Home. The money was raised by the auction of 1984-85 Department Auxiliary President Marion Brown's hair, cut for the occasion, the auction of a ceramic Christmas tree decorated with Buddy Poppies and through donations made by all members present at the banquet at the June Department Convention.

SERVICE WINS

"ABOVE AND BEYOND THE call of duty" is a phrase often applied to the work of VFW Service Officers.

This was perhaps never more applicable than in a situation recently reported from Department of California involving Senior Field Officer Joe Dwyer.

This letter from Anna May Young, a VFW Ladies Auxiliary member and the sister of Francis Joseph Smith, a deceased World War II veteran, says it all:

"I would like to commend F.J. Dwyer, (VFW) Senior Field Officer at the Wadsworth VA hospital Center in Los Angeles for all the effort he expended on behalf of my late brother's best friend Harry Robart and me. My brother served in the US

Army Air Corps during World War II and died in Los Angeles on March 1, 1985. As you can tell by my return address [Lakeland, Fla.] I was not close enough to be of any help to my brother at the time of his last illness. He was hospitalized for 61 days and was visited by Mr. Robart on every one of those days and also by Mr. Dwyer on more than one occasion. Unfortunately, there was really nothing Mr. Dwyer could do for him until after he died. But then he really carried the ball for us.

"I arrived in Los Angeles at noon on Sunday, March 3, and Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Robart were there to meet me at the airport. Mr. Dwyer placed himself at our disposal for the entire time of my stay. He took me directly to the VA hospital to meet the

chaplain and make arrangements for a memorial mass for my brother the very next day.

"On Monday he took us to the funeral home to make arrangements for all that was necessary and did all he could for us up to and including my brother's final interment at the national cemetery.

"It would be impossible for me to express in this letter exactly how much and in what manner and spirit Mr. Dwyer helped us through the entire ordeal. I sincerely hope that when his time comes to join his other fallen comrades, he will be treated with as much care, concern, dignity and respect as he showed for my brother, his friend Harry and me. Again, I cannot possibly commend him highly enough."

Balls Nine was a gooney bird,
a familiar sight in the skies
above Vietnam. But this
particular aircraft was
probably dreaded more by its
own crewmen than by the
enemy.

By Ross G. Day

BALLS NINE WAS A HARD LUCK AIRCRAFT. IT SEEMED TO HAVE resident gremlins that raised an inordinate amount of hell with every working part of its body, 26 years old in 1970.

Balls Nine was an EC-47 "Electric Goon" assigned to the 460th Tactical Electronics Warfare Squadron flying out of Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam. Its mission was to search out enemy troop concentrations.

One of the first pieces of information handed out to EC-47 crews during early-morning pre-mission briefings was the aircraft assignment.

"Your aircraft is 43-49009."

The response would be a chorus of moans from pilots and crewmembers alike. All knew it was either going to be a very long day or a very short one.

Balls Nine had a long record of mission aborts for just about every reason ever written in a discrepancy report: smoking engine, propeller vibration, cracked piston, complete engine failure, bad Doppler system....

The result would be a return to Tan Son Nhut and a long wait while another Goon was readied or a complete scrub of that day's mission. Balls Nine had a succession of crew chiefs, each in succession hating this camouflaged hulk more than the first.

Crews actually would sit around in the beer garden and dream of Balls Nine's demise. Any number of scenarios were set for its destruction.

One of the most promising involved Vietnamese Air Force airmen who would sneak into the revetment at night and drain the sump tank, part of a system that extracted water from the aircraft's fuel. The system also took some aviation gas with the water.

Hard Luck Goon

They would drain the contaminated aviation fuel into wine bottles that would appear for sale in Saigon's thriving black market or be poured directly into one of the seemingly millions of 50cc Honda motorcycles given to the Vietnamese airmen as re-up bonuses.

It was hoped that one of these sump-drainers would light a cigarette while at his task. BAROOM! Bye-bye Balls Nine.

In spite of intense wishing on the part of the crews, the ugly Goon continued its in-residence torment, continuing to defy all efforts by maintenance to keep post-flight write-ups to fewer than six pages.

On Dec. 25, 1970, however, grumbling crewmembers almost got a much hoped for but unexpected Christmas present.

Balls Nine sat short of the approach end of Tan Son Nhut's Runway 25 Left, awaiting clearance for takeoff.

"Steel 36, you are cleared for take-off," came word from the tower.

"Steel 36 rolling," the pilot replied.

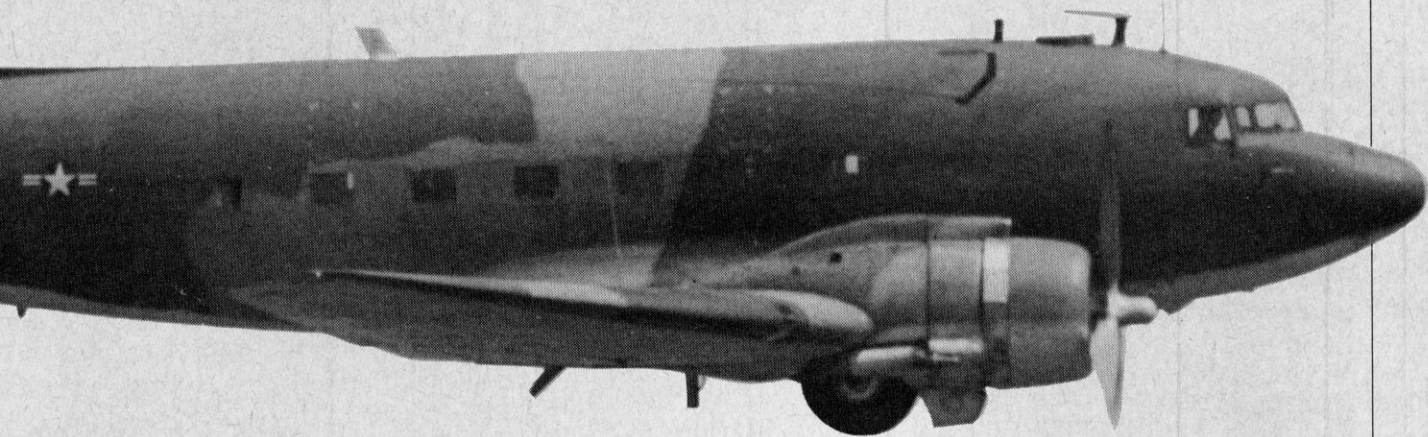
Throttles were jammed forward, and the antique Goon lumbered down the runway. But just as the tail wheel lifted off the concrete, the gremlins took over.

For a reason that will never be determined, Balls Nine swerved to the left and headed directly for a C-130 awaiting clearance on the next approach ramp. The pilot gained some semblance of control and averted a broad-side collision with the Hercules, but still clipped about 10 feet of right wingtip off the C-130.

The right underwing fuel tank of the C-130 ruptured, spilling aviation fuel onto the ramp. Quick action by the Hercules crew averted tragedy. The rear cargo ramp came slamming down, and Vietnamese soldiers came pouring out of the C-130 like mad ants out of a mound. Luckily, there was no fire.

Meanwhile, Balls Nine was swerving out of control down the runway. It nearly hit a small hut in the grassy median between 25 Left and 25 Right, went around the building,





turned left again, recrossed 25 Left and headed for the concrete and steel revetments that lined the runway. The only thing that stopped the runaway Goon was a ditch approximately five yards wide and eight feet deep.

The ditch caught the gear and tore it off prior to putting a halt to the Goon's wayward progress. A visibly shaken crew piled out of the aircraft, now resembling a great beached whale.

Tragedy had been averted. No one had been seriously injured. But it looked as if Balls Nine, which had been trying to fall out of the Southeast Asian sky for years, had finally met its end. The gear was gone, along with about five feet of wing.

There was a party that night. Toasts were drunk to the crew who had survived Balls Nine's suicidal dash, and beer was poured in celebration of the end of the most hated airplane on the flightline.

The celebration was premature.

The very next day, a crew came in from a mission and was taxiing by

the maintenance revetments. There sat Balls Nine on jacks. The Goon was going to be put back together.

Every crew that taxied by for the next two weeks checked the progress of the repairs, hoping against hope that at some point the maintenance chief would declare Balls Nine irreparable and turn it over to the scrappers.

Every piece of metal that was replaced, every rivet hose redrilled, brought fear into the hearts of passing crewmembers. When the jacks were removed and Balls Nine rested on its new landing gear, all knew this pain in the neck was immortal.

"You can't kill the damned thing," they thought. Nothing short of a nuclear explosion would remove this albatross from around the necks of those who hated it with such passion.

"Your aircraft for today is 43-49009."

"God, help us."

"I'm going DNIF (duty not to include flying)."

"Anybody want to swap birds? Please!"

No one knows exactly what hap-

pened to Balls Nine. "Vietnamization" put it under VNAF control, complete with Vietnamese crews, on Nov. 6, 1972. With the fall of Saigon in 1975, it's theorized that Balls Nine was captured along with the billions of dollars of materiel left by American forces.

There is one consoling thought. If it survived the attack on Tan Son Nhut and was still flyable, Balls Nine might very well be giving the North Vietnamese the same fits it gave its American crews.

They're welcome to it. ■

About the Author:

Ross Day is a retired Air Force noncommissioned officer and former crewmember who flew aboard EC-47 aircraft during the Vietnam War, logging 159 combat missions aboard these aircraft. He came away with a Distinguished Flying Cross and five Air Medals to his credit.

Spaghetti Bowl in Italy

By Dan B. McCarthy

New Year's Day, 1945, when Southern California blanked Tennessee, 25-0, in the Pasadena Rose Bowl before 91,000 spectators, some 25,000 WWII Allied troops in Italy whooped it up as 5th Army gridders whitewashed the 12th Air Force, 20-0, in a Florence soccer stadium.

The military game was publicized as "The First and Last Spaghetti Bowl Game," a morale booster for troops in the country shaped like a boot. The event achieved its purpose.

On the following day's sports pages in America, eight bowl game results reported by the Associated Press

included two military games played overseas. Some 360,000 fans flocked to the eight games.

Besides Italy's Spaghetti Bowl, the Army's Railroaders ran up a convincing 37-0 victory over Army All-Stars before 18,000 troops in the Riviera Bowl at Marseilles.

The 5th Army's coach was Capt. Louis J. Bush, Massachusetts State College, '34 (now University of Massachusetts). Maj. George A. Miller, a center at Indiana on the 1935-37 squads, coached the 12th Air Force.

Bush was with the 2nd Armored Division in the North Africa invasion, and later was transferred to 1st Armored after that division incurred heavy losses at Kasserine Pass.

"The Spaghetti Bowl game," recalls Bush, "was the marvelous idea of two 5th Army corporals. They contacted Gen. Mark Clark and explained how a bowl game in Italy on new Year's Day would remind troops of home and would contribute much to morale."

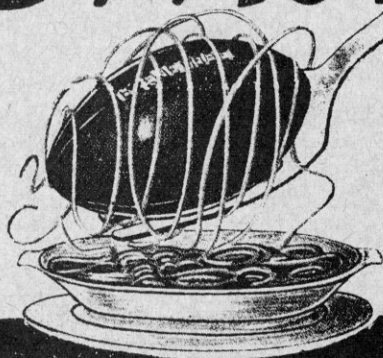
Gen. Clark agreed.

"Our 5th Army players were recruited by Special Services from defensive positions north of Florence. At the time, we were building supply lines for our coming spring offensive campaign into the Po River valley. Our goal was Bologna in the Apennine Mountains," Bush said.

"Our football training camp at Montecatini, 20 miles north of Florence, was ideal. It had been Mussolini's private physical exercise and massage parlor. Natural springs pumped hot sulphur water into this huge, white marble building with many bathtubs in it. We had a large hospital field tent with training tables and portable showers, plus a nearby hotel the engineers occupied when troops pushed the Nazis northward to the Po River.

FIFTH ARMY and TWELFTH AIR FORCE

Present the FIRST AND LAST SPAGHETTI BOWL GAME



ITALY

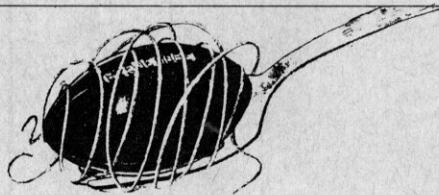
1 JANUARY 1945

Sponsored by
FIFTH ARMY & TWELFTH AIR FORCE
SPECIAL SERVICE



vs





"We had white sheets on soft beds, towels and clean living again. Not bad, after those muddy defensive positions in the cold, snowy Apennines. It was remarkable that we were pulled out of the lines and could look forward to a football game again," Bush said.

After the Spaghetti Bowl victory, the 5th's gridders had a week's furlough at the Montecatini spa. At the victory banquet for 5th and 12th personnel, a few baseball players with a USO troupe attended, including Joe Medwick, Nick Etten and Leo Durocher.

Joe Louis and Ezzard Charles, both in their Army uniforms, were there, too. They were in the Florence area to appear in boxing exhibitions for troops.

Sports writer Tom Meany, banquet emcee, was in the sector, covering the war for The Saturday Evening Post and The Brooklyn Telegram.

"During my furlough time, Durocher wanted to get out to talk to the troops. We piled into a Jeep and started north, passing a few dozen

disabled Nazi tiger tanks and a few of our own. Leo got to wondering just how close we were getting to the front. I told him that it was pretty safe up there, a fact that pleased both of us. Durocher was from West Springfield, Mass., where I had watched him play semi-pro ball when he began his career.

"Our game advantage, besides the plays, was a great bunch of athletes who sacrificed their careers to help save America from Hitlerism. All of us, 5th and 12th players, fought for principles of peace on earth.

"Our 5th Army secret game weapon on offense was lining up in the Notre Dame T-formation, using the hike-one-two-three-four shift into trap plays, hitting weak spots in the 12th's line.

"Our deep back faked going into the line, then handed off to Big John Moody, our offensive threat all afternoon long. Capitalizing on his pro experience with the Los Angeles Mustangs, Moody, who was 30 then, scored twice for our Mudbuster," Bush recalled.

(Cpl. John Moody, of the 92nd Division, was an All-American selection at Morris Brown, Atlanta, several years prior to his military service.)

A Yank magazine correspondent covering the Spaghetti Bowl that cold, New Year's Day, reported that the scoreless first quarter was a punting duel between the 12th's Bridgebusters and 5th Army Mudbusters.

As second quarter action began, however, Moody ripped around right end for a 30-yard gainer. Several downs later, Moody tested the left side of the line, making another 30 yards to the 12th's eight.

Eugene C. Stauber, of University of Toledo, who shared the 5th's quarterback action with Edward E. Brennan, of Syracuse University, picked up two yards on a sneak and halfback Frank T. Buell, of Florida, carried for three yards to the 12th's three-yard line.

Moody scored the first of his two TDs, bulling over from the three, then adding the PAT. In the third period, Buell scored the 5th Army's second TD, with Moody scoring again in the fourth period. The Yank scribe wrote: "Bridgebuster fans had little to cheer about."

That is, until too late in the fourth quarter.

Halfback Arthur Faircloth, North Carolina State's All-Southern stalwart, reeled off a 40-yard pass to the 12th's Joseph J. McShane, of Dayton University. The 12th drove deep into 5th Army territory, pressing to avert a shutout. Alas, the drive ended there as time ran out.

During Bush's recollections of that game, he mentioned the play of Ed Niemi several times.

Cpl. Edwin E. Niemi was a 210-pound tackle in the 5th's lineup who played collegiate ball at Marquette.

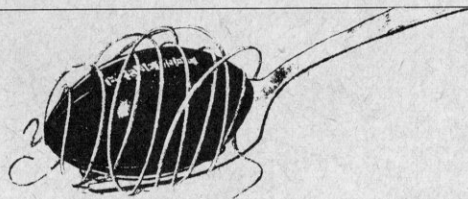


In a 3-point stance during practice, John Powers, 5th Army guard, played college ball for DePaul University.



vs





During the North African campaign, Niemi, with Co. E, of the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, saved the life of a crane operator on May 25, 1943, when a boom came in contact with a high voltage wire. "For heroism and complete disregard for his own safety in the vicinity of Souk Ahras, Algeria," Niemi earned the Soldier's Medal awarded by the 1st Armored Division.

Niemi was with the Cleveland Rams before entering service, and in 1945 played for the Chicago Cardinals. He was a center on the 1937 Marquette team that played in the first Cotton Bowl, won by Texas Christian, 16-6. Niemi was a career police officer after pro football and a member of VFW Post 1823, Ironwood, Mich. He died in October, 1984.

Coach Bush said: "I remember Ed Niemi as a quiet, soft-spoken GI bridgebuilder, whose engineering unit occupied that hotel in Florence when the Spaghetti Bowl took place. Ed never talked about his Cotton Bowl or pro experiences while we got ready for the game."

In one game-action photo in Yank, Moody was sprinting into open field territory with a neat gain underway until the 12th's Arthur H. Gramman, of the University of the South and a B-24 navigator, caught up to Moody, as radio operator Gerald V. Haston, Texas Tech, closed in to haul Moody down.

That photograph clearly shows what Bush said about game equipment: "How about those officials in summer khaki uniforms and those famous OD knit caps? Our 5th practice jerseys were plain, OD long-john underwear tops. Players wore tank helmets during pre-game practice scrimmages. Just before the game, someone neatly painted white numbers on those jerseys."

"A day before the game, however, regular football helmets and shoes, plus shoulder and hip pads arrived, flown in from the States in a C-54 airplane. But the 12th Air Force trotted on the field with white numbers neatly sewn on sharp blue jerseys. I remember one of our fellas quipping that maybe the flyboys knew some seamstresses in Florence, keeping that intelligence to themselves, then showing up in flashy jerseys."

The Mudbusters fielded a squad of 33 players; the 12th's roster had 36 players. With frequent substitutions, all players suited up saw action.

During halftime ceremonies, each team had a 56-piece band tuned up. The 5th Army Song and "off we go into the wild, blue yonder" competed all afternoon. There were halftime floats, too! A dozen or so motor pool vehicles were all gussied up in true Stateside football homecoming flare.

Cheerleaders? Certainly! The 12th scored a coup over the 5th. At halftime, Peggy Jean Roan, claimant of

the U.S. baton-twirling title and in Italy with a USO troupe, led the Bridgebusters' band. Later, she entertained with "handsprings" as Yank reported. Nowadays, it's termed gymnastics.

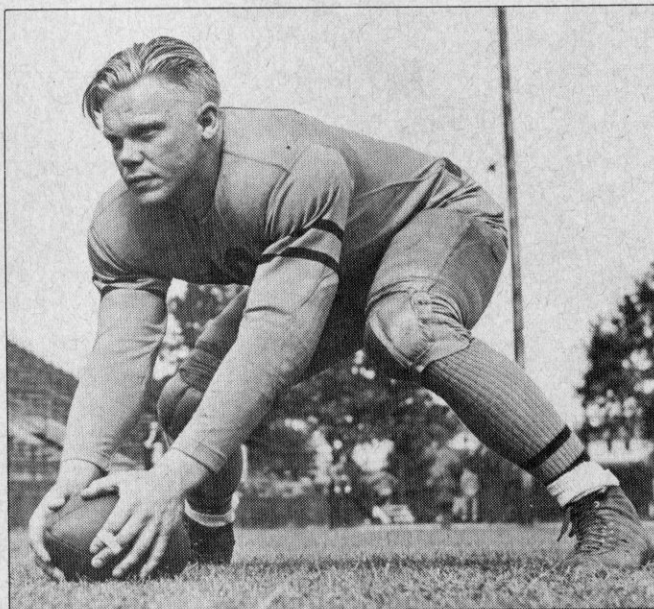
Garbed in cold weather GI issue, fans sported parkas, field jackets and overseas caps. Those bulky GI overcoats were popular that afternoon, the brass buttons shining in a winter sun.

Military personnel from other Allied nations watched the game with little notion about U.S. football play and rules. But a Yank photographer got a picture of one of them completely absorbed in field action. For the picture caption: "It looked like crazy business to troops of other Allied armies. This British MP wonders what all the bloody excitement is about, but he seems to be enjoying it."

Fifth Army head coach Bush's assistants included Lt. C.E. Hemke, Texas A&M, line coach; 1st Lt. Robert

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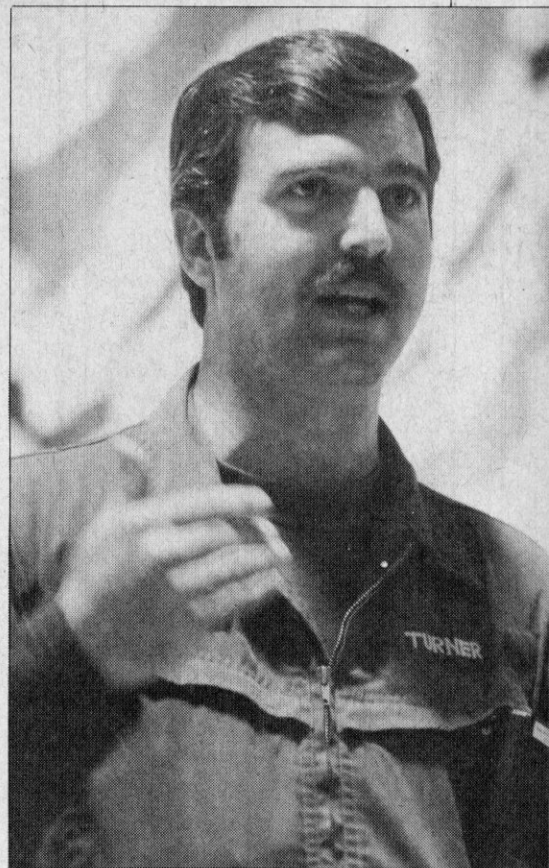
A standout tackle at Marquette University before military service, Ed Niemi won the Soldier's Medal for saving the life of a crane operator while serving with 16th Armored Engineer Battalion.



vs



Mike Turner, a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, flies one for a Louisville hospital now.



By Ed Cheney

THE SOUND OF GUNSHOT PIERCED THE EVENING QUIET. IT WAS followed quickly by the screams of a young man writhing on the ground, terror-stricken, fearing what suddenly seemed possible.

But the sound soon died. The stillness of the night returned and the wait for help began. So, too, did the flow of blood from the victim's belly, as his hands pressed in vain against the dangling flesh.

He was dying slowly, but he was dying surely.

Within minutes, the silence was broken again. But this time it was the rat-a-tat-tat of helicopter rotors chugging over the tiny mountain town, weaving low to the ground, searching.

The pilot, straining his eyes through the thick of trees cascading down the mountainside, finally spotted the victim and made a beeline to nearby clear terrain for a landing.

Paramedics sprinted from the chopper and quickly swooped up the victim, carefully placing him in the air ambulance for the ride to the closest medical unit.

This incident happened in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western Virginia two years ago. This incident also happened near the Cambodian border just outside Thailand 13 years ago. Both times, Mike Turner helped save a life.

Turner is a Marine combat veteran who served in Vietnam during the latter stages of the war in 1971-72. Working mainly in Laos and Thailand, he led a number of search and rescue missions for GIs wounded or shot down in ground and air skirmishes with the Viet Cong. His mission was to preserve soldiers' lives, a

Vietnam Service Translates to Civilian Jobs

mission the 37-year-old Kentucky native continues today for civilians.

Indeed, Mike Turner is one of hundreds of Vietnam veterans who

jobs quite similar to their Vietnam responsibilities.

Veterans like Turner, who returned home to empty air strips and quiet Main Streets, refused to banish the memory of their work in Southeast Asia and elected instead to apply that experience far away from rice paddies, green khaki and body counts. These are veterans who are doing today what they did in Vietnam.

Turner, for instance, is a helicopter ambulance pilot for Skycare, an air ambulance service dispatched from Jewish Hospital of Louisville, Ky. John Wetterer manages an orphanage in Guatemala similar to the orphanages he toiled for in Duc Pho; and Gene Gitelson directs a jobs program for Vietnam veterans in a style reminiscent of his days as a platoon leader in Phuc Vin.

"It's funny," says Turner from Jew-

**"I was pushed to an edge
in Vietnam that I never
would have gotten to had I
not been a soldier over
there fighting the war."**

—Gene Gitelson

have chosen to stand the bitterness of the war on its head and take from Vietnam a sense of self-confidence, a purpose and a direction, leading to

ish Hospital's emergency ward where he nears the 30th hour of a typical 48-hour shift, "but everybody in the States back then complained about the violence of Vietnam, but from what I've seen there is more random bloodshed here than I ever faced in the war."

Although a Marine lieutenant, Turner learned his trade in the Army's helicopter school in 1968. The demand for military pilots was high at the time, and he recognized it as a two-fold opportunity: to serve his country and to learn a craft. The 37-year-old father of two flew hundreds of missions around the Laotian border, rescuing the wounded and picking up stranded B-52 pilots shot down by ground fire.

"The idea was to pick 'em up and get them out and back to safety as fast as humanly possible," Turner says. "No one ever died in my helicopter."

When his hitch was done, Turner returned to Kentucky where he became a state trooper for a few years. But he always burned to fly again.

"I met someone purely by chance who was starting a helicopter ambulance service, and when I told him what I did in Vietnam, I was hired," Turner recalls.

"Yes, Vietnam gave me an occupation for the rest of my life," Turner explains. "That country and the war will always be part of me. Now I have the stability of closeness to my family... to go home to hug my kids and my wife. In Vietnam, you couldn't escape."

Undoubtedly, John Wetterer would agree. An Army draftee, he served his tour of duty in 1967 in Duc Pho, a small village near the South China Sea about 100 miles from the Laotian border. Wetterer was a "ground pounder" who more than anything else wanted not to kill.

Much of Wetterer's view of the war came from his stomach as he patrolled the jungles day and night seeking the enemy, never knowing if a Viet Cong soldier would suddenly appear beside him, sharpened for the kill. The uncertainty was drain-

ing.

Another war, a sadder war, came to light for Wetterer. It was the war to survive the terror for thousands of Vietnamese children orphaned or left homeless.

"Children were the most vulnerable human beings in Vietnam, and I found it hard to stand by and watch their suffering without offering some help," Wetterer recalls.

Wetterer saw the dire needs of the children. He volunteered most of his free time to supplying several orphanages with medicine, food, clothes and other supplies.

"It was my way of helping to

Gene Gitelson encourages other Vietnam veterans to use their service-learned skills in civilian life. This photo shows him during the war.



brighten a grim situation for the kids," Wetterer says.

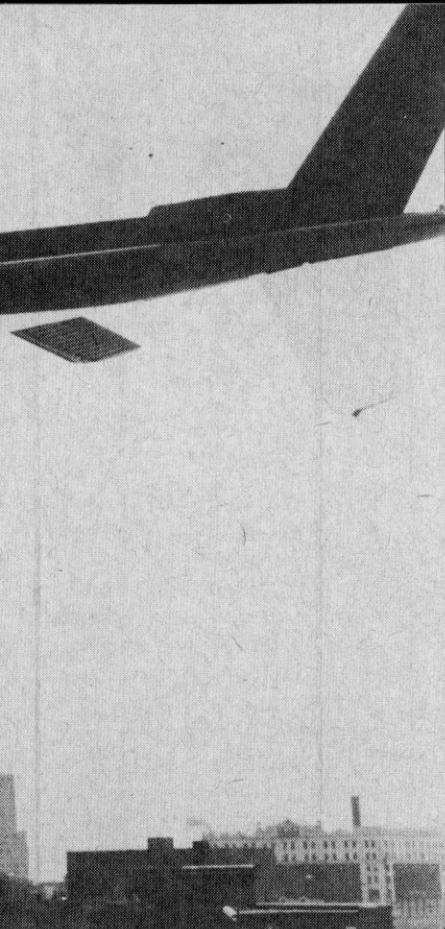
"If it wasn't for Vietnam, I couldn't conceive of myself doing what I'm doing today," the 36 year-old native of Massapequa, N.Y., says.

What he is doing is acting as legal guardian to more than 250 young boys whose lives were doomed to the streets of Guatemala. Wetterer lives with the youngsters in Mi Casa (My House), a former children's hospital converted into dormitories containing between six and 85 beds each. Mi Casa also has an eight-grade school, playground, bilingual library, petting zoo, science lab and swimming pool dug and tiled by the boys. A paid staff and volunteers help "Tio Juan" Wetterer maintain order.

The orphanage is run by Tio Juan in military fashion but with a heart.

"It's so important that these boys grow up in the right atmosphere and are shown that relationships can work," Wetterer says. "These kids are capable of going to school and getting jobs when they leave here. This orphanage is just setting the foundation."

In 1975, he returned to Vietnam as a civilian. And when he left in the



Mike Turner's helicopter prepares to land at Louisville's Jewish Hospital.

21, he led a rifle platoon and a 35-man supply support unit that made certain ground forces under fire were well-stocked with guns, ammunition and other essential supplies.

Teamwork was essential to accomplish the task with minimal loss of life. An organization chart existed in Gitelson's platoon outlining each soldier's key responsibilities.

On these expeditions, Gitelson was pushed into a classic management situation: dealing with uncertainty in a stressful environment, managing people, handling obstacles and being responsible for the results.

"Can you think of any better training for the real world after Vietnam?" asks Gitelson, 39. He is the guiding force behind the New York Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a non-profit group which helps Vietnam veterans find jobs and themselves.

"If that type of job doesn't qualify a veteran for a management job in the business world, then I don't know what does."

Yet, much to Gitelson's dismay, many veterans choose to ignore and even deny that valuable experience. Many veterans walk into his office lamenting that they have nothing to offer a potential employer.

"You tell me about the pilot in Vietnam who is flying in Kentucky, the nurse who continued nursing after the war, the MP who became a cop," Gitelson says. "For them, the transition over to civilian life was easy to recognize. But for less skilled veterans, the pure experience of being in Vietnam, working with others, leading men, is not clearly transferrable to jobs for them. The transition is far more subtle."

Gitelson is one example of a veteran who recognized the value of his year in Vietnam and made it work. When he returned from the war in 1967, he worked as a market researcher for Seagram & Sons, a back office analyst for Chase Manhattan bank, a community organizer on New York's Lower East Side and as a consultant to the United Nations where he organized seminars for

diplomats on conducting negotiations. In 1982, he was asked by the White House to develop a jobs program for Vietnam veterans.

"I was pushed to an edge in Vietnam that I never would have gotten to had I not been a soldier over there fighting a war," Gitelson explains. "It made me strong and gave me the courage to take on all the things I have done since I returned."

Gitelson points out that the average soldier sent to Vietnam was 19. Hence, most left the States before acquiring marketable job skills. Vietnam force-fed the character skills and 20-year-old boys returned as



After John Wetterer's Vietnam War experience, he runs an orphanage in Guatemala.

men lacking only in actual work experience.

"I'm certainly not intimidated to faceoff with a bank chairman when we need money for the Vietnam jobs program," Gitelson says. "How can I be afraid to be fired on by the bank chairman when I already faced down fire from people bent on killing me."

Estimates as to how many veterans are using today the skills they learned in Vietnam are purely guesswork. Yet, the fact is many are. Soldiers like Gitelson, Wetterer and Turner have come to share a common ground. For each, Vietnam is the horror of firefights, night raids, fear and death. Yet each used the experience to chart a future, a future that transformed pain into promise. ■

spring, more than 600 orphans, from infant to six years old, were part of his return baggage. By the end of the year, all but three of the children were placed with families from around the world. The other three Wetterer himself adopted.

The following year brought Wetterer to Guatemala City, where he planned to manage a similar adoption program, but the needs of Guatemalan orphans were different. Many of them were older boys whose lives as street urchins made them less adoptable and more in need of a home and a guiding hand. Wetterer was determined to be that hand.

"In the orphanages in Vietnam and this one in Mi Casa, we were able to show the kids there is more to life than just a daily struggle to live another day, to eat another day. The kids can feel loved.

"Nobody who was a soldier in Vietnam will ever forget those days," Wetterer continues. "But it was a springboard for me to something better, not a crutch for failure."

Such sentiments are what make Gene Gitelson tick. Gitelson served in Vietnam in 1966-67 as a 1st lieutenant and platoon leader with the Army's First Infantry Division. At

Breaking Ice

By Joan Maiman

The Great Lakes are frozen over now, and the men of the United States Coast Guard stand ready, as they have for generations, to rescue mariners whose ships run afoul of the dangerous weather so characteristic of the region.

The Great Lakes in winter are a far cry from the steaming, sweat-generating jungles of South Vietnam, but at least 17 Coast Guard cutters patrolled the shores of South Vietnam and the mouths of its rivers to prevent arms and troops from being smuggled to the Viet Cong.

In Vietnam, as in World War II, the Coast Guard worked in association with the Navy, but on the Great Lakes the Coast Guardsmen are on their own—only the cold, the snow, the ice and the biting wind are their constant companions.

Although in peacetime the Coast Guard is under the Department of Transportation, in war it is transferred to the Navy.

This relationship with the Navy has given rise to the famous reply of a cadet at the Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn., to the question, "What is the Coast Guard?"

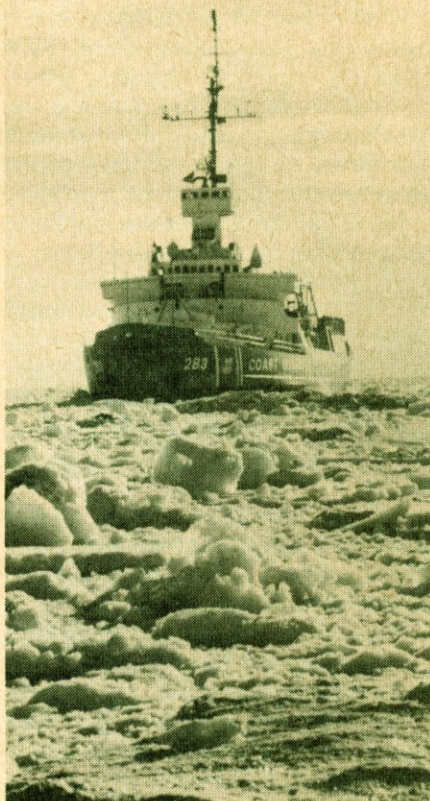
"It is that hard nucleus about which the Navy forms in time of war."

Seriously, however, one of the Coast Guard's prime missions, whether in war or peace, is to help keep open the waterways for commercial shipping in the winter.

In the Great Lakes, as in the polar regions, this mission requires icebreakers.

Largest of these vessels on the Great Lakes is the CGC Mackinaw built in 1944. The "Mac" is currently under the command of Capt. Arnold Littiken. Lt. (jg.) Terry Murphy one of Mac's officer, outlined the icebreaker's duties.

Although newer 140-foot icebreakers are also in use



on the Great Lakes, their "mission is completely different from that of the Mackinaw," Murphy says.

The Mac has six engines and two screws while the smaller ships have two engines and one screw, enabling the longer ship to break through and move far greater quantities of ice. With a crew of 80, eight of them officer, the Mackinaw does not pull extended sea tours.

Rather, she is at sea for two to three weeks at the most at one time, Murphy relates.

April is the busiest season for the Mac when she is called in to move the ice from White Fish Bay on Lake Superior to open it up for the spring shipping in that region. In the summer the Mackinaw goes on public relations duty, traveling throughout the Great Lakes region. Perhaps in this capacity she is best known for being the host ship for the annual Purple Heart Cruise held on Lake Michigan for some 500 veterans. The event is

supported by Chicago Sun Times columnist Irv Kupcinet with the backing of the people of Chicago.

According to Murphy, the Mac is a very popular attraction at many of her summer stops, and "on busy days we can have up to 5,000 people pass through."

The newer and more economical class of 140-foot cutters includes the Mobile Bay, the Mackinaw does not pull Biscayne Bay and the Bristol Bay. The skippers and key personnel of these ships meet in October for pre-winter planning sessions to map out their operations for keeping the waters safe for shipping in the coming winter months.

One program operated by the Coast Guard promotes safe shipping on the Great Lakes. The "Ship Riders" effort grew out of an investigation into the loss of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald in 530 feet of water in Lake Superior

The Mac is busiest in spring when called upon to open shipping lanes.



in November, 1975.

The Fitzgerald, a 729-foot bulk cargo vessel enroute from Wisconsin to Cleveland, was loaded with 26,000 tons of iron ore when she ran into an early winter storm in Lake Superior. She broke up and took with her a 28-man crew and master to the depths of the icy lake.

In a ballad by singer Gordon Lightfoot, the "good ship and true" was described as "a bone to be chewed when the gales of November came early."

Following an investigation into the Fitzgerald disaster in March, 1978, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended, among other actions, that the Coast Guard begin a "ship riding" program aimed specifically at ensuring that ships on the Great Lakes are able to withstand the conditions created by the winter storms. Under this program, the Coast Guard marine safety officers in the Great Lakes Region every October are assigned to four or five lake freighters on which they conduct safety inspections while the ship is underway.

The executive officer of the Marine Safety Office in Chicago, Cdr. Gary Thornton, explained, "The inspections assure the industry and ourselves that the ships are ready for the adverse weather conditions that occur in late fall and winter."

Thornton added that the trips which last from two to five days give the inspectors an in-depth look at how the 600 to 1,000-foot ships are run. However, says Thornton, "The longer term benefits are the experiences, the discussions and the observations you make while underway."

Thornton says he believes that the onboard experience "will give you more credibility with the shipping industry because you've seen the other side—you've been there."

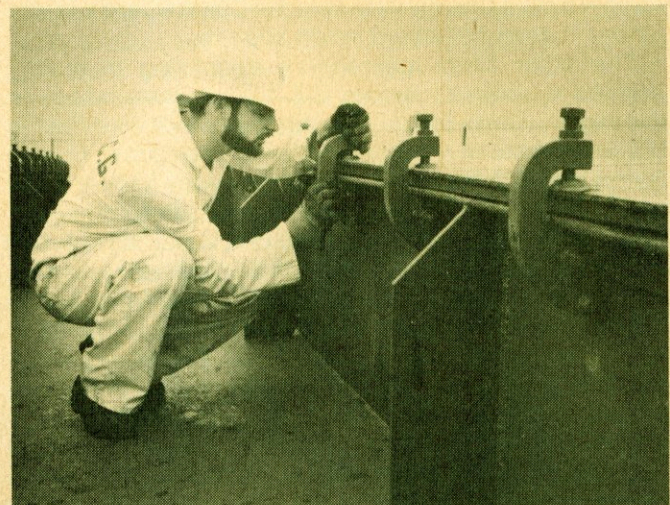
Coast Guard officials say they meet with little opposition on these visits, as many crewmen know it "is for their own benefit."

In the polar regions, Coast Guard icebreakers serve double duty: they keep shipping lanes clear and they play host to onboard scientists who perform a variety of experiments and studies in the icy region. Some of the material gathered in these projects, such as survival in Arctic conditions, is later incorporated into survival courses for military personnel.



The crew of the SS Ryerson performed well during a survival suit drill conducted by CWO Bob Hall of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Chicago as part of a pre-November safety inspection.

Near the poles, icebreakers pull double duty: making big ice small ice and hosting researchers.



Lt. (jg) Gordon Baker inspects a hatch cover clamp aboard the Ryerson.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Fred Maldonado, these icebreakers operating in the polar regions sometimes encounter Soviet vessels, as well as vessels of other nations, fishing in the region.

By agreement, international waters begin 10 miles off shore. However, the U.S. claims waters up to 200 miles off all her coasts as coming under U.S. law covering fishing regulations.

Fishing boats from foreign nations operating in this 200-mile limit are boarded by the Coast Guardsmen who inspect to be sure that U.S. regulations are not being violated. (The Coast Guard is the only branch of the U.S. armed forces allowed to enforce federal law, as in the case of fishing regulations.)

Boarding parties check to "see if the nets being used are too small for legal operations," says Maldonado. Also, certain fish, such as shell fish and salmon, cannot be taken from U.S. waters by foreign fishing fleets, and the vessels are inspected for signs of any such illegal catches.

According to Maldonado, the seizure of Soviet vessels operating illegally in U.S. waters attracted much international attention in the early 1970s. Although this happens occasionally now, said the Coast Guard warrant officer, it does not attract much attention.

The polar class icebreakers also bring in much-needed supplies to remote U.S. military installations in the region. These bases often are completely isolated in the winter months. Other duties of the Coast Guard, duties of which many people are not aware according to Maldonado, include assurance of water safety. However, over the past 20 years, the states have assumed much of this responsibility, so the role of the Guard has lessened.

Search and rescue in the case of disaster at sea is another role of the Guard. The service maintains a fleet of 41 small jets to assist in this work. These jets carry sophisticated electronic equipment to locate the vessel in distress and then direct other rescue craft to the scene.

There are also 90 helicopters in the fleet, and Coast Guard is switching over to the newer HH Dolphin 65 craft.

To aid in navigation, eight nations cooperate in maintaining the OMEGA system. This network is used for exact navigational fixes by ships and planes, and the U.S. OMEGA unit is operated by the Coast Guard.

The U.S. Coast Guard came into existence on Aug. 4, 1790, when President George Washington signed an order which authorized building a fleet of "ten boats" to guard the coast of the new nation against smugglers and reduce the \$80 million debt.

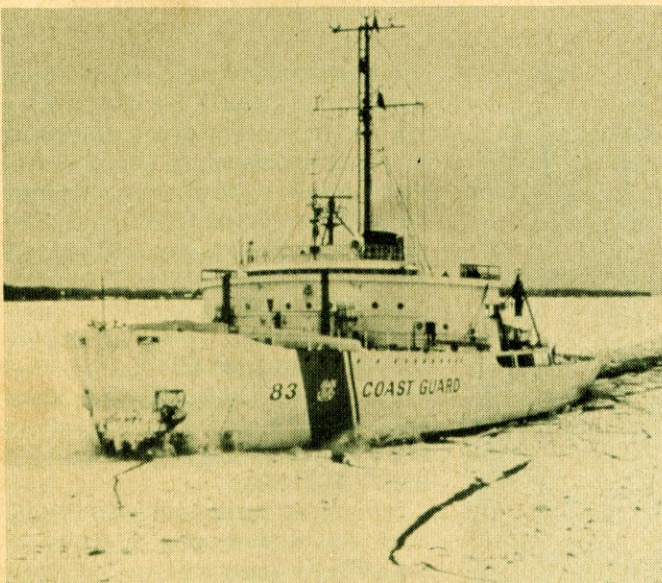
Thus, the Coast Guard, then known as the Revenue Marine, became the first of the nation's seagoing forces. From its founding until 1967, when it was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation, the Coast Guard was under the direction of the Department of the Treasury. That is, except for wartime transfers to the Navy.

Just as today, the early service had its money problems.



From the bridge, the icebreaker's officers keep careful watch.

**Seizure of Soviet vessels still occurs
but without the hoopla of the past.**



The 290-foot cutter Mackinaw plows through the Great Lakes.

VFW Backs Coast Guard

If the VFW gets its way, the Coast Guard will have all the money, people and equipment it needs to carry out its missions.

This was made clear in Resolution 422 — Preserve the U.S. Coast Guard — adopted by delegates to the 86th National Convention held in Dallas last August.

The VFW resolved to call on President Reagan and Congress "to recognize the contributions of the United States Coast Guard and to restore the funding necessary to allow the Coast Guard to refurbish

its fleet and continue to provide its full range of services to the United States of America."

Further, the VFW declared that President Reagan and Congress ensure that the Department of Transportation restores "the active and reserve manpower needed to maintain the effectiveness of the United States Coast Guard.

In the resolution, the VFW said the Coast Guard "is suffering rapid deterioration of its vessels, aircraft and physical plant because of grossly inadequate budgets and continued

Congress authorized a fleet of 10 small cutters costing \$1,000 each, but to achieve this, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton had to win over reluctant congressmen who feared offending merchants and creating a powerful central authority. Hamilton finally got most of what he wanted, but the \$40 a month he asked as wages for captains was cut to \$30. The first United States seagoing officer, Hopley Yeaton, was commissioned as "Master of a Cutter for the Protection of the Revenue" by George Washington on March 21, 1791.

With some 39,000 members, the Coast Guard is the smallest branch of the U.S. armed forces as well as the only one that does not come under the direction of the Department of Defense.

Many Coast Guard officers come through the Coast Guard Academy in New London the first of the service academies to go co-ed with the admission of women in 1976.

The Coast Guard Academy is also the only one of the service academies that does not require a Congressional appointment for admission. Academic qualifications alone count.

Under the direction of the Department of the Navy in time of war, the Coast Guard has served in all American wars except the one with Tripoli—President Thomas Jefferson was pinching pennies.

increases in its missions which have produced severe strains on equipment and overworked personnel."

The VFW cited the origins of the Coast Guard during the earliest days of the republic when it was established by then Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and cited its participation in all the United States wars and crises up to Vietnam.

The resolution attributed to the Coast Guard the saving of thousands of lives and millions of dollars in equipment each year and praised its law enforcement prowess.

The Longest War

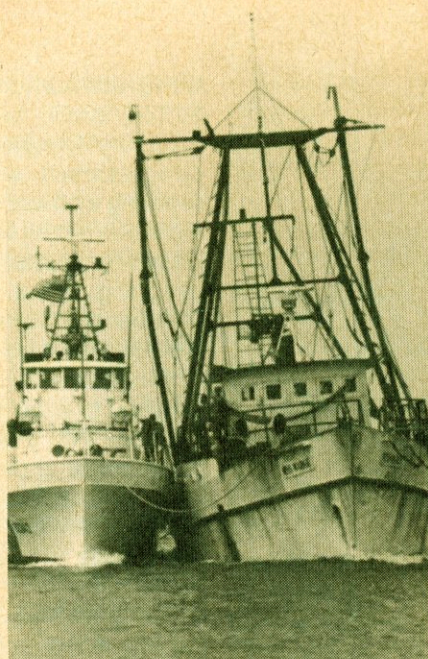
It has been recognized since man started writing history. Properly used, it can benefit mankind. Abused, it has proven to be among mankind's deadliest physical and social evils. It exists in many forms and under many names. It is glorified by advocates and vilified by many, many others. It is among the paradoxes of life—under control, a benefit to human pain and suffering, without control, insidious death of the human condition.

It is narcotics.

It is now considered among the foremost problems confronting many nations, East and West. Many from those nations will say man is losing his war against its advance into virtually every society on this earth.

To give you an indication of the problem—minute because it is only a glimpse of a worldwide problem—in the calendar year of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 1984, the United States Coast Guard alone—of all U.S. government agencies engaged in this fight—seized 218 vessels, confiscating 2.5 million pounds of marijuana, 1,966 pounds of cocaine, 2.2 pounds of heroin, one pound of hashish and 18 gallons of hashish oil. Nine-hundred and twenty-nine people were arrested as a result.

Consider that the Coast Guard estimates it is only seeing about 15% of the narcotics entering this country, and you get a glimpse of the magnitude of the world problem. Granted, the U.S. is indeed one of the most lucrative markets for this substance, but it is by far not the only market.



Above, the cutter Point Wells has fishing trawler lashed fast, as the crew search for contraband. Below, Coast Guardsmen load confiscated bales of marijuana on board a cutter under the eyes of a U.S. Customs officer.



It is estimated that the illegal drug business in the U.S. is a \$70 billion a year industry. Marijuana and cocaine currently account for \$45 billion of that total. Annual consumption has been measured at 12,000 to 14,000 metric tons of marijuana and 45 to 54 metric tons of cocaine. The profit margin? In 1984, a pound of marijuana in Colombia, a principal country of origin, averaged \$9 a pound. That same pound in the U.S. cost about \$400. One metric ton cost about \$20,000 in Colombia and in the United States \$880,000.

Smugglers' tactics are fairly simple. Most prime marijuana is grown in Colombia's isolated mountainous eastern areas. It is transported to the north coast and Guajira Peninsula and loaded on ships for the trip north. These ships are generally small freighters and fishing vessels from 60 to 200 feet long. A normal load of contraband is between five and 15 tons of marijuana. These vessels are referred to as "mother-ships." The travel north until they reach natural choke points, narrow geographical passes that provide exits from the Caribbean Sea into the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean.

They run the gauntlet through these choke points, and, if successful, head for the Gulf of Mexico or the U.S. East Coast. So far, the favorite destination has been the Southeastern United States. When the motherships approach the U.S. coast, they are met by smaller contact boats some distance from shore. These boats are usually U.S. yachts or fishing vessels

In 1984, the Coast Guard seized over 200 vessels transporting contraband.



that pick up a small portion of the mothership's load of contraband. Then they make the final run to the U.S. shore. The mothership moves on to the next rendezvous point and continues deliveries until the whole cargo has been transferred. It then returns to Colombia.

Coast Guard strategy to counter this smuggling is simple. (The ultimate counter would be for the government of Colombia to eliminate the contraband at the source. Unfortunately, it has not. Meanwhile, the U.S. must counter.)

The Coast Guard divides the smuggling routes into three zones: departure, transit and arrival. In departure zone, intelligence is gathered at the source country to identify the smuggling vessels, when they depart and their course and speed. In the transit zone, suspicious targets identified in the departure zone are relocated by interdiction in the choke points. The primary objective is to interdict the motherships where the Coast Guard has the geographical advantage and before the bulk cargo can be subdivided into smaller cargoes and dispersed. Finally, in the arrival zone motherships that have slipped through are intercepted if possible. Contact boats are seized.

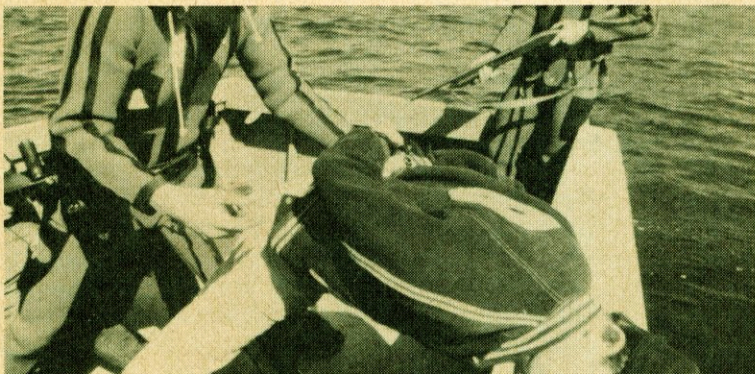
Because of successes in this approach, the Coast Guard has noted changes in drug-runner tactics. With the increased pressure in the Yucatan and Windward

Passes, smugglers are being forced to use more sophisticated tactics, such as using complex hidden compartments built into vessels and a return to more direct routes that are counting on shorter trips with those hidden compartments to get through checks. Also, more air drops to contact boats are being used requiring heavier air surveillance by the Coast Guard.

On March 23, 1983, the White House announced the formation of a National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS) to be directed by Vice President George Bush. By May, all agencies involved in this program supported the establishment of six regional NNBIS centers in Long Beach, El Paso, New Orleans, Miami, New York and Chicago. Hawaii is a sub-region. These regional centers collate intelligence, assess threat, decide on targets, identify resources, recommend actions, followup seizures, maintain statistics and coordinate joint or special operations.

Also, another Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET), a group of specialists who provide boarding teams, has been established at Long Beach in addition to the one at New Orleans. These teams are highly mobile.

Finally, Coast Guard district commanders in Miami, New Orleans and Long Beach have been designated as the coordinators of the Southeast, Gulf and Pacific NNBIS Regional Centers, respectively. The 14th District



As one Coast Guardsman keeps his weapon trained on suspected drug smugglers, his shipmate checks out another suspect.

**Smugglers change tactics often,
forcing the Coast Guard to react.**

Gum Disease Too Often Ignored

Curiously, at a time when many Americans seem compulsive about healthful diet, exercise and attractive appearance, a widespread and basic threat to all three is being ignored.

It is gum disease — not cavities — which causes 70% of all tooth loss in adults. Fact is nine out of ten Americans suffer from gum disease, making it second only to the common cold as the most widespread of all diseases. Unfortunately, despite its "epidemic" proportions, it's the least treated of all dental problems.

If you lose your teeth, your diet will be restricted because so many foods are difficult to eat if you have dentures, and they may affect your health and your appearance, as well as your enjoyment of food.

Since it is so important to keep your teeth for efficient chewing, good digestion and to avoid the many problems wearing dentures causes, why do so many people ignore gum disease?

Chiefly, the reason is that they do not understand what it is, do not recognize they have it, or what can be done to prevent or treat it.

The most common cause of gum disease is bacterial plaque — a sticky, nearly invisible film that collects on the surface of your teeth continually. It consists of saliva, food debris and many forms of bacteria and their products. It eventually hardens or calcifies and turns into tartar, which dentists call calculus. As it builds up, the gums become inflamed as a result of poisons produced by the bacteria and the body's efforts to fight back.

After a time, the poisons produced by the battle dissolve the fibrous connective tissue in the gum around the tooth. A space under the gums for plaque and debris to accumulate is created, and pockets in which additional colonies of bacteria thrive, producing further poisons, are cre-

ated. If the condition is not treated, the bone in which the teeth are moored begins to deteriorate. This process is called "resorption." Eventually, the bone that supports the tooth is eroded and the tooth loosens. This briefly is gum, or periodontal, disease. It is the main cause of tooth loss among adults.

Most important first step in preventing gum disease is learning to clean your teeth properly. By looking in a mirror and using good light, you can sometimes see food debris, but the real danger, plaque, is usually invisible. It can be seen clearly when a harmless vegetable-dye in the form of a rinse or a tablet is used to stain the plaque brightly. This leaves no doubt about its presence and location.

All brushing methods are aimed at cleaning the teeth well without doing harm to the teeth or gums. Dental floss or tape is the most effective way of cleaning bacterial plaque from the hard-to-reach surfaces between the teeth. Since this is the area where most periodontal pockets start, it is worth the bit of time and effort required to master the flossing techniques. Daily tooth cleaning will keep the formation of bacterial plaque and calculus to a minimum, but it won't prevent it completely, nor will it remove calculus already formed and firmly attached to the teeth at the gum line or below it. This can be done only by a dentist or a hygienist.

In the earlier stages of gum disease, most of the treatment is much like the familiar professional cleaning your dentist customarily does to remove plaque and calculus. It involves scraping with an instrument called a curet to remove plaque, calculus and inflamed soft tissue in the pockets around the tooth. This rids the mouth of the bacterial colonies and the mechanical and chemi-

cal irritants that cause inflammation. This usually allows the gum to re-attach itself to the tooth or shrink enough to eliminate the pocket. In most early cases, curettage and root planing and proper daily cleaning of the teeth by you are all that are required for a satisfactory result.

Some general practitioners treat slightly advanced conditions, but many refer more serious cases to periodontists who have extensive specialized training in the treatment of gum disease. Two years of graduate study are required to qualify as a periodontist.

After active treatment is completed, the periodontist usually refers the patient to the family dentist for restorations but also may see the patient several times a year for followup care and maintenance.

In more advanced cases, the treatment may have to be more complex. The periodontist is trained to deal with all possible variations of gum disease, some of which may be quite complicated if the condition has been allowed to deteriorate by neglect or because of some unusual individual personal response.

But the American Academy of Periodontology, the scientific organization for this specialty, emphasizes that in 90% of all cases of gum disease, prompt treatment and good personal care make it possible for the patient to keep his or her teeth.

You are the essential factor in treating gum disease. You must go to your dentist at least twice a year, and be sure he or she examines your gums. Prevention is the best protection, maintaining mouth cleanliness the best control. A free brochure about this threat to your health is available from the American Academy of Periodontology, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose self-addressed envelope. ■

WILLIAM D. GRAY, JR., A VIETNAM veteran and grandson of Past Commander Woodie Gray, of **Post 2996**, Chicago, Ill., writes that his grandfather now lives at Heather Manor Nursing Home, 15600 Honore Ave., Harvey, Ill. 60409 and would like to hear from his World War I comrades. He is in ill health. Gray served in the 370th Infantry on the Western Front during World War I, and he was an employee of the U.S. Postal Service for 36 years before his retirement in 1959.



Jerry McKenzie, of Kingstree, S.C., and a member of post 6500, and Ron Wiese, of New Berlin, Wis., both disabled Vietnam veterans, pose with a deer bagged at Doonan's Gulch, a hunting facility near Broadus, Mont. They won the trip as guests of Doonan's Gulch Outfitters in a drawing in the September issue of VFW Magazine. Severely burned in a fire on the USS Enterprise off Vietnam in 1968, McKenzie was outfitted with special clothing for the trip by Damart Co. and Haband Co. Airfare was furnished by Veteran's Village.

A picture in the Life Magazine World War II special issue brought back memories to most WWII veterans, but a special one to Clifton Bryant, a member of **Post 1219**, Kansas City, Mo. A picture of Tinian reminded him that he saw the "Enola Gay," the B-29 that dropped the

atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the day before it set off on its mission. The next day it was gone, Bryant recalled, and then "we learned what had happened." Bomb parts brought from the U.S. were assembled on Tinian. Bryant served in the 535th Engineering Squadron, 20th Air Force.

Post 3118, Pleasant Hill, Mo., has marked its 50th anniversary as a continuous Post. Seventeen out of a possible 20 living Past Commanders were present at the dinner and program at the Post Home.

March was Fairview Memorial **Post 8677** month in St. Clair County, Ill., to honor the Belleville Post on its 25th anniversary. Commander Mel Royer and the other Post officers received a plaque from the County Board proclaiming the month-long observance.

On behalf of her family, Mrs. Virginia Shepard has written **Post 7858**, Bernardsville, N.J., to thank Commander Frank Hughes and Post members for their assistance after the death of John Faherty, a WWI veteran and Post member. She wrote: "Most of all, your greatest gift was the vivid picture of unity and continuity that you presented to the grandchildren who range from 14 to 30 . . . Your Post truly gave them a sense of unity and bridged the generation gap."

Thanks to the efforts of **Post 1731**, Braham, Minn., the town now has a monument to all veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Commander Harold Person, of **Post 1731**, Jr. Vice Commander Ray White and Vicent Person, officer of the day, accepted the monument from Ted Carlson, of the Braham Monument Co. The cost? Only a handshake, Carlson told Commander Person.

Post 2378 and Auxiliary, Berwyn, Ill., have tied red ribbons around trees in Berwyn to call attention to the nearly 2,500 Americans still listed as missing in action in Vietnam. Participating in the program were Commander Bob Bednarz, District 4

continued on page 42

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 - ☐ WORLD WAR II VICTORY

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Visiting Post 7137, Arco, Idaho, Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, right, is welcomed by Idaho Department Commander Benjamin Rasmussen to a breakfast meeting that included also Vice Chairman Glenn A. Phillips, of the National Safety Committee, Post Commander Dick Brown, Mayor Chic Jones, a Post member, and District 4 Commander Rainbow Thompson.

Robert Haith, Jr., director of the Fort Howard VA Medical Center, receives a \$1,700 check from Post 6694, Dundalk, Md., presented by Commander Al Walsh. Four color television sets will be purchased for veterans' use at the facility.



Jersey City, N.J., Detective Gaspar J. Carbone, past commander of Post 810, receives a belated WWII Silver Star and Oak Leaf Cluster from Rep. Frank J. Guarini (N.J.). Joining them at Carbone's hospital bedside were other veterans such as District 3 Commander Eugene Cody, Department Jr. Vice Commander Joe Taormino and S/Sgt. Gregory Mintz, a Marine recruiter. Carbone served in the ETO with the Army's 1st Infantry Division.



Commander Harry Tabor, of Post 2605, Carbondale, Ill., recruits Jasper Garrison, a 105-year-old Spanish-American War veteran as a VFW member. Garrison served in Cuba during that war.

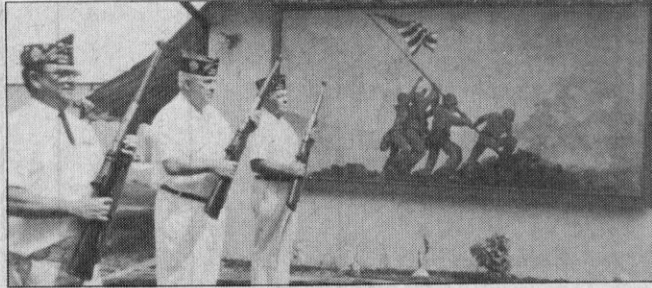


On his 96th birthday, Roy Ellis joins Post 3347, Silver City, N.M., as Department Surgeon Clyde Birkla hands him his membership card. Directly behind Ellis is Harry Gunderson, 87, wearing his WWI uniform, who may be the oldest still active bugler in the organization.



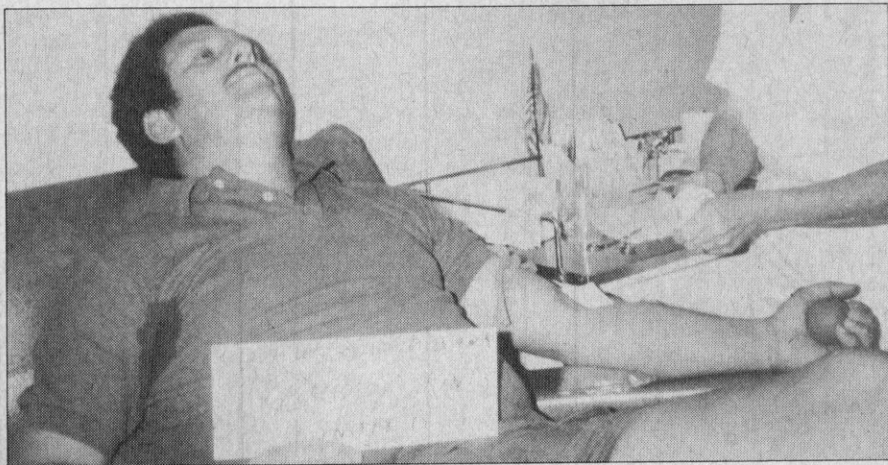
Earl Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, presents a certificate of commendation to William Kelly, VA Voluntary Service Representative for the Veterans of World War I at the Albany, N.Y., VAMC. Kelly has worked more than 11,000 hours for hospitalized veterans in his 20 years of volunteering.

Past Commander Ray Glines, of Post 994, Bristol, Conn., center, is flanked by Commander Alex Kucirka and Chaplain John Sean Sullivan who are holding Glines's awards for 1000 hours of voluntary work at Newington Veterans Hospital.



"Port arms" was the command when this picture was taken at the dedication of the Iwo Jima mural at the home of Post 10093, Clearwater, Fla.

Harold Prott, a six-gallon donor, gives the 40,000th pint of blood to the VFW Blood Bank at the North Jersey Blood Center, where the VFW Essex County Council takes part in the blood donor program. Edward Staugaitis, VFW Blood Bank Committee chairman, estimates that of the 100 pints collected during the blood drive, 40 were credited to the account of the VA hospital in East Orange. Staugaitis's assistant chairmen are Andy Tomasko and Ribs Rible.

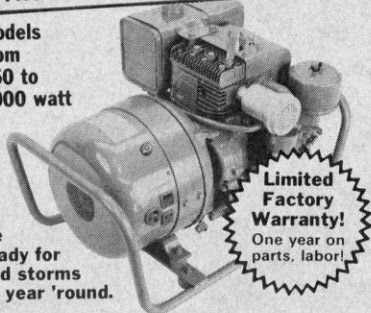


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I N T H E F I E L D

continued from page 39

Commander Lloyd Hyatt, Past Post Commander Robert Mesik, Patrolman Joe Jacobazzi, a Vietnam veteran, and representatives of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Recently, Charles L. Trail, a Life Member and Past Commander of **Post 2332**, Johnson City, N.Y., was presented his belated World War I Victory Medal and discharge pin. Although disabled by a stroke, Trail, 89, was able to comprehend the meaning of the presentation. Post Service Officer Charles A. Kneller, who worked for several months preparing the paper work and investigating records, handled the framing of the medal and discharge pin, along with a picture of Trail taken when he was a young soldier in France. Presentation was made by Commander Steve Patrick. Present for the ceremonies were Trail's two daughters.

Area Campfire Girls recently received a United States Flag from **Post 3323**, Garden City, Mich. Participants in the program were Officer of the Day Gene Leader, Post Sr. Vice Commander Jack Fair, Jr. Vice Commander John Sobkowiak and Stan Miodowski. The occasion was Campfire's 75th anniversary.

Francis Hanes, a 40-year member of **Post 1047**, St. Mary, Pa., recently was awarded a Life Membership in

the Post for his selection as "an outstanding veteran." Award was presented by Post Commander Boyd Yetzer. Hanes is a Navy veteran of WWII Pacific service.

A computerized mannequin named "Annie" recently was presented to the Schoharie County, N.Y., rescue squads by **Post 5088**, Cobleskill, N.Y., for use in the teaching of CPR courses. In return for this contribution to the squads, a course in CPR was conducted for Post members. Funds for the purchase were derived from weekly bingo games at the Post Home.

Post 1046, Brockton, Mass., has been a busy one for the past two or three years at least. A recent round-up of its activities includes a testimonial for Algird Timinck, a WWI veteran, for his years of service on Post committees such as Buddy Poppy and several others. Brockton Mayor Carl D. Pitaro and Commander Paul Malyszko, National Master Sergeant-at-Arms, were among the many who paid tribute to Timinck. He was also made a National Aide-de-Camp. In addition, Post 1046 clippings from the Brockton Enterprise show a wide range of activities from Buddy Poppy sales to appeals for an accounting of missing in Vietnam and the release of any prisoners still held in Southeast Asia.

Soldiers' Stories

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Department Commanders-of-the-Month

October, 1985



DIV. I
Nick Vannicelli
Ohio



DIV. II
Patrick T. Bohmer
Minnesota



DIV. III
Robert Gascoigne
Wisconsin



DIV. IV
Michael J. Mason, Sr.
Maryland



DIV. V
James E. Higgins (2)
Virginia



DIV. VI
Stanley Plessala (2)
Louisiana



DIV. VII
Donald L. Ruby (2)
South Dakota



DIV. VIII
Al Gordon
Vermont



DIV. IX
Judd Clemens (2)
Alaska



DIV. X
Raymond G. Eberhardt (2)
Pacific Areas

District Commanders-of-the-Month

DIV. I
District 8
Indiana
John Kavathas (2)

DIV. II
District 3
Indiana
Terrill Reith (2)

DIV. III
District 1
Indiana
Thomas Cogley

DIV. IV
District 10
Iowa
Dave Schwandt (2)

DIV. V
District 3
Nebraska
Marlin Speidel

DIV. VI
District 19
Louisiana
Stanley Cantrelle (2)

DIV. VII
District 1
Arkansas
Charles Rogers

DIV. VIII
District 10
Maryland
Joseph Stanton (2)

Post Commanders-of-the-Month

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Ivan Dimmett (2)

DIV. II
Post 53
New York
Fred C. Fiore

DIV. III
Post 6240
Kansas
Melvin R. Garrett (2)

DIV. IV
Post 673
Indiana
Nicholas Brames

DIV. V
Post 9083
Maryland
Nicholas T. Bassetti (2)

DIV. VI
Post 834
Massachusetts
Robert J. Gallagher (2)

DIV. VII
Post 3761
Ohio
E.E. Albin

DIV. VIII
Post 802
Indiana
Robert Robinson (2)

DIV. IX
Post 8510
Minnesota
Marty L. Ban (2)

DIV. X
Post 4695
Texas
Joe Tucker

DIV. XI
Post 3941
Michigan
George R. Zellman (2)

DIV. XII
Post 9862
Maryland
Kenneth Britter

DIV. XIII
Post 5852
Louisiana
Elliot Zeller

DIV. XIV
Post 8564
Texas
William B. Warren

DIV. XV
Post 2151
Indiana
Bill Rapier (2)

DIV. XVI
Post 6732
South Carolina
Hillard E. Hartman

DIV. XVII
Post 7389
Massachusetts
Raymond Reynolds (2)

DIV. XVIII
Post 7778
Georgia
Louis C. Graziano II (2)

DIV. XIX
Post 2011
Texas
Medardo E. Garza

DIV. XX
Post 5865
Pennsylvania
Acie T. Marksberry (2)

(Figures in parentheses indicate number of times Commander has won this honor.)

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Oct. 31, 1985.
NATIONAL AVERAGE — 64.18%

1	ALASKA	74.00
2	Minnesota	72.22
3	Wisconsin	72.16
4	South Dakota	71.26
5	Indiana	70.89
6	Maryland	68.83
7	Kansas	68.82
8	Michigan	68.50
9	Vermont	67.81
10	Pacific Areas	67.62
11	Wyoming	67.39
12	Louisiana	67.33
13	Virginia	67.16
14	Nebraska	66.74
15	Panama Canal	66.73
16	Ohio	66.63
17	California	66.56
18	Maine	66.22
19	Iowa	66.01
20	Illinois	65.70
21	North Dakota	64.78
22	Washington	64.64
23	Delaware	64.31
24	Colorado	63.71
25	Montana	63.60

26	New Jersey	63.54
27	Arizona	63.39
28	Missouri	63.28
29	Alabama	63.15
30	New Mexico	63.14
31	Connecticut	62.83
32	Florida	62.53
33	District of Columbia	62.45
34	New York	62.28
35	Hawaii	62.06
36	Rhode Island	62.04
37	West Virginia	61.85
38	North Carolina	61.78
39	Oregon	61.55
40	Texas	61.46
41	Mississippi	61.42
42	Idaho	61.30
43	Oklahoma	60.77
44	Arkansas	60.69
45	Kentucky	60.50
46	Pennsylvania	59.98
47	Nevada	59.84
48	Massachusetts	59.22
49	New Hampshire	58.84
50	Georgia	55.98
51	Utah	54.36
52	Tennessee	54.30
53	South Carolina	51.76
54	Germany	32.27

Honor Roll

These members are being honored by inclusion in this Honor Roll for recruitment on the basis of a one-time experimental membership program: Charles William Smith, Post 7909, Jacksonville, Fla.; Bernard A. Hinz, Post 5727, Goodhue, Minn.; August F. Krueger, Post 4101, Marshfield, Mo.; Marcos E. Garcia, Post 6388, El Paso, Tex.; Beaumont D. Haas, Post 5294, Albany, N.Y.; Ebb Riddle, Post 2352, Elkins, Ark.; Melvin K. Goddard, Post 4484, Rainelle, W. Va.; Leroy C. Stalzer, Post 4370, Britt, Iowa; John McGolerick, Jr., Knoxville, Md.; and Walter W. Ryan, Jr., Post 8296, Ocean City, Md.

National Aides-de-Camp

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointment as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of November. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members: Michael J. Salome, Post 3982, Santa Clara, Calif.; John Best, Post 891, Asheville, N.C.; John Purcell, Post 6055, Southbridge, Mass.; Robert J. Dubord, Post 1098, McAlester, Okla.; George A. Hancock, Post 4848, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of Nov. 8, 1985

Post Place No.	Location	1985-86 Membership
1	1114 Evansville, IN	3279
2	628 Sioux Falls, SD	1941
3	3579 Park Ridge, IL	1900
4	360 Mishawaka, IN	1801
5	2539 Gulfport, MS	1789
6	5555 Richfield, MN	1748
7	1308 Alton, IL	1713
8	47 Uniontown, PA	1621
9	1146 St. Clair Shores, MI	1608
10	1296 Bloomington, MN	1516
11	401 Albuquerque, NM	1514
12	53 Jamestown, NY	1512
13	131 Lincoln, NB	1473

14	1273 Rapid City, SD	1445
15	49 Mobile, AL	1387
16	1064 Huntington, WV	1383
17	2290 Manville, NJ	1315
18	6506 Rosedale, MD	1303
19	1599 Chambersburg, PA	1295
20	4372 Odessa, TX	1271
21	6640 Metairie, LA	1230
22	1275 Lima, OH	1227
23	2100 Everett, WA	1225
24	367 Joliet, IL	1217
25	1989 Indiana, PA	1217
26	969 Tacoma, WA	1213
27	6704 Mechanicsburg, PA	1210
28	3962 Corinth, MS	1189
29	379 Yakima, WA	1156
30	249 Butler, PA	1154
31	6240 Russell, KS	1140
32	1621 Janesville, WI	1138
33	447 Albert Lea, MN	1134
34	1079 Elyria, OH	1124

35	6975 Bristol, VA	1122
36	5632 St. Louis Park, MN	1112
37	4087 Davison, MI	1103
38	5263 Fort Sill, OK	1103
39	9619 Morningside, MD	1090
40	6251 Cheektowaga, NY	1087
41	549 Tucson, AZ	1083
42	8541 San Antonio, TX	1079
43	1810 Brentwood, PA	1077
44	2704 South Omaha, NB	1068
45	2503 Omaha, NB	1068
46	2199 Joliet, IL	1061
47	1865 Kenosha, WI	1057
48	7330 Oakville, CT	1042
49	1650 Topeka, KS	1038
50	6796 Dallas, TX	1037
51	7987 New Port Richey, FL	1028
52	1000 Independence, MO	1022
53	3851 Carmi, IL	1015
54	295 S. St. Paul, MN	1015
55	1003 Jefferson City, MO	1004

Marty



The Iceman of Monmouth County



was aboard, you knew the ship wasn't going to sink. Not too many people are expert at this specialty. Jack was, and that's why Adm. Byrd selected him to be member of the hand-picked crew to journey to Little America.

Like many who participate in history, Jack didn't appreciate at the time that he was an important player in an epic drama. Discovering the substance and behavior of the vast wasteland of frozen Antarctica was a major step forward for mankind. The continent, the fifth largest land mass on earth, covers a tenth of the

Jack Prude poses with fellow sailor Dale Patterson in the warmer climes of San Francisco prior to his Antarctic adventures.

by David Askling

Those of us who are privileged to visit VFW Post 2179 on Route 36 in Middletown, N.J., get to meet some interesting people.

Some of them take turns behind the spacious bar. When Jack Prude pulls his tour and drops ice cubes in your Scotch or vodka, you know you're getting ice. Jack has spent years of his adult life surrounded by ice.

Jack, slim, handsome and white-haired, is usually reluctant to talk about his spectacular career in the Navy. If you persevere, however, you will discover he was an important member of Adm. Richard Byrd's celebrated expeditions to the South Pole.

Jack Prude had already put several lifetimes of adventure behind him

in the waters of Pearl Harbor, Guam, Midway, Korea and Japan before he caught the eye of Adm. Byrd. Jack was 1,500 feet from the USS Missouri when General of the Army Douglas A. MacArthur and the Japanese met to end World War II. But 1945 was not the end of CPO Prude's career as a sailor.

As a teen-ager he had wanted to become an artist and work for Walt Disney studios. But the sea beckoned, and he joined the Navy. When he was 18, Jack had been a great athlete at San Pedro, Calif., High School and was slated for a football scholarship at Southern Cal until he broke his shoulder. No scholarship, no career at Disney. Instead, he learned how to become a ship steamfitter at schools in San Diego and San Francisco. His job was to keep ships afloat. Not by himself, of course, but when Jack

sphere. With 18,000 miles of coastline, the coldest area in the world, it controls the weather in vast areas of the globe.

Beginning in 1901, Capt. Robert Falcon Scott led teams of explorers using McMurdo Sound as a nautical base. But the Siberian ponies he imported for the job couldn't manage the frozen turf; they would sink and become immobilized. Roald Amundsen, the famed Norwegian explorer, used men to pull sledges and it worked. They all reached the South Pole and perished. So it went. Like Mount Everest, it was there and men were determined to conquer it.

Along came the International Geophysical Year two years after the Navy launched Operation Deep Freeze in 1957 and Adm. Byrd was a very determined and skillful man. His crew reached McMurdo Sound,

as others had in the past, but Adm. Byrd arrived with experts. Each member of the crew was an expert, including Jack Prude. He recalls, "My job was to make sure the ships didn't get stuck in the ice. If that happened, Operation Deep Freeze would fail."

Adm. Byrd died and Adm. George J. Dufek, a man whom Jack greatly admired, took over the command of the 12 ships, 3,500 men and 40 aircraft needed to establish new bases. Collapsible rubber "pillow-tanks," tractors, helicopters, Air Force Globemasters and Navy Dakotas on skis were thrown into the mission. It worked.

The admiral, geologists, scientists, Jack Prude and the crew returned with valuable information that will benefit future generations trying to figure out how to survive on Planet Earth. Jack and some fellow sailors own a peninsula on Antarctica, and the deed is presumably somewhere in the Pentagon files, he thinks. He alone owns an acre of the South Pole which he has no plans to develop.

Jack spent the remainder of his Navy career based in Boston traveling to ports in the Mediterranean mostly. He retired in 1965 as a senior chief petty officer. The days and years of separation from his family

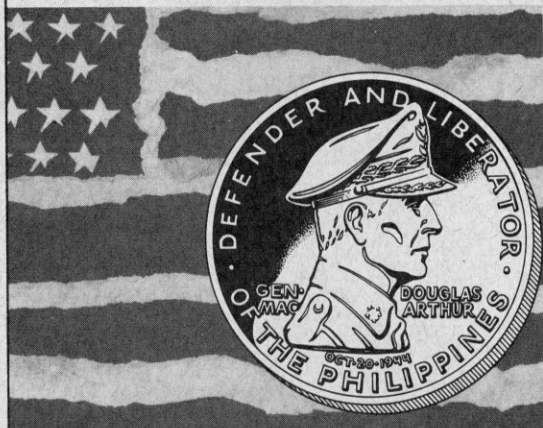
were over and they moved to Middletown and have lived there since.

He has a bouncy, pretty wife, Stevie, and three children, Bobby, Lynn (also a sailor for a while) and Patrice. Two grandchildren, Jill and Jennifer, aren't old enough to appreciate what grandpa did for mankind in the frigid, desolate world that is the South Pole. But they will some day.

"You're not Jack Prude's granddaughter, by any chance?" They will answer proudly, "Yes, I am."

So if you have the good fortune to be invited to Post 2179, don't say no. Who knows? You may get lucky. Jack Prude may be on duty. ■

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4385-443

continued from page 6

supports a Presidential commission if the President believes it will help him recover our men.

QUESTION: *Why does the VFW remain so closely tied to the League of Families?*

ANSWER: The VFW has been tied to the issue of our POW/MIAs rather than to any group. Since 1969, our organization has been asserting that we wanted government attention focused on this issue. The league is the only organization comprised solely of POW/MIA families and represents the majority of the families of our missing men and our men as well. Because of this, the VFW sponsored and still supports the league representation on the government's POW/MIA interagency policy committee. The league has been and still is recognized by the government as the legitimate spokesman for the missing men and the majority of the POW/MIA families.

QUESTION: *Wouldn't it be less painful in the long run to just forget about the POW/MIA issue consider-*

ing the length of time that our men have been missing?

ANSWER: However painful and however long the process, the VFW will remain dedicated to the fullest possible accounting. Now, when we have reason to believe that the accounting may be completed within the next two years, we cannot quit. Even if it takes longer than two years, we need to work together to see that the job gets done. Taking care of our veterans and keeping faith with our servicemen and women are the main purposes of our VFW. We must never forget our purpose or the needs of others who have faith in us.

In my acceptance speech at our National Convention, I told our delegates that I would maintain the high priority of the POW/MIA issue, and I have already told that to our government officials. This is a promise I intend to keep, and I ask all of our members to join me and work with me in keeping our commitment to our missing comrades. ■

SPAGHETTI BOWL

continued from page 23

J. White, Indiana, backfield; and 1st Lt. Arthur Lemke, Georgetown, end coach. Trainer was Capt. Leonard M. Arons, U. of Pittsburgh. Bush, Massachusetts State '33 football captain, was the nation's leading scorer in his junior year with 127 points. He is a member of VFW Post 417, Greenfield, Mass.

Coach Miller's 12th aides were Capt. Edward A. Schulte, Pittsburgh, line coach; Capt. W.J. Daly, Pennsylvania, backfield; and Maj. John M. Palm, trainer, of Indiana.

Game officials were Maj. Roy Pille, referee, Indiana; Sgt. William J. O'Donnell, umpire, Trenton Tech.; Col. John Carriker, field judge, West Point; and, Maj. Tom C. Smith, head linesman, Tennessee.

"Forty years after that Spaghetti Bowl game was played, maybe some

interest might be generated for a reunion of people involved in that New Year's Day game in Florence," Bush said.

GAME NOTES: 5th Army GIs brought a small Italian burro to the game, adding a touch of West Point's mule mascot hoopla. Game tickets were free. "No Scalpers," one spectator observed. The Berta soccer stadium was approximately three hours from the front. P-38s flew cover during the afternoon. Axis Sally had reported on her radio broadcast to Allies that the Luftwaffe planned to attend, too, but the German planes were "no shows" that cold afternoon. For many U.S. troops, it was the first football game they watched since the fall of 1943 back home. ■

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"We have a 30' x 100' garden that is fenced to keep woodchucks out. We own a Troy-Bilt and had to take the fence down each time we wanted to till. Not any more! With our Mantis, we get in and out easily. My wife and I both think it's a great little machine!"

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Gansevoort, NY 12831

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
1985-86 Series

General Orders No. 3

continued from December issue.

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3. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941. Posts should plan programs of suitable observance in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. (See VFW Ritual)

continued on page 54

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G E

continued from page 53

- The Annual Washington Conference of Department Commanders and National Officers will be in Washington, D.C., February 28 - March 4, 1986. The Congressional Dinner will be the evening of March 4, 1986.
- The 87th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 15-22, 1986.
- Post Commanders are reminded that entries for Community Activities Single Outstanding Project recognition may be submitted at any time during the year. The National Awards Program is a continuing one, with the panel of judges convening every two months. Details of the program are contained in the Awards folder sent to all Post Commanders.
- Post Commanders are reminded that January 1, is one of the official days when the Flag of the United States is to be displayed by all Americans.
- Paragraph (d), Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws provides "each Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention by the payment of a fee in the amount of six dollars (\$6.00), which fee shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials." Posts that did not pay the advance registration fee for the 86th National Convention held in Dallas, Texas are reminded that they are delinquent and in arrears. All such Posts are directed to pay the regular registration fee of \$8.00 forthwith. Post check should be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters immediately.
- The locations of the following Posts have been changed: Post 1780, from Escondido to Valley Center, Calif.; Post 8245, from Mansfield to Huntington, Ark.

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Submit claims assistance requests to VFW Magazine, Claims, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

ALL BRANCHES

Japanese Prison Camp Ashio (WWII)—Seeking any ex-POW who remembers me working in the copper mine and smelter—Lewis J. Wehr, Rte. 1 Box 45, Downs KS 67437.

Kunsan (K8) South Korea (1952)—Seeking anyone who remembers me suffering from snow blindness and a frostbitten face, esp. Leslie Sivers (St. Louis MO), James Sykes (Birmingham AL) and Charles (Tennessee) Henson (Johnson City TN)—James E. Thomas, 1001 Freedman St., London TN 37774.

ARMY

1st Bn. Div., 77th Arty., 1st Cav. Div., Btry. A (Vietnam, 1967)—Seeking anyone who remembers when 1st Sgt. and myself were trapped behind a jeep—Jack Murphy, 521 Shenandoah Dr., Harrodsburg KY 40330.

3rd Inf. Div., 10th Combat Engr. Bn., HQ & HQ Co., Comm. Section—Seeking anyone in my section or anyone connected with the hospital ship at Yong-dong po (8044 MASH) who remembers when I suffered a hip and shoulder injury while stringing commo wire in the Yonchon sector of Korea—Joseph N. Rollins, 565 W. "D" St., #7, Ontario CA 91762.

R A L O R D E R S

10. The correct location for the following consolidated Post is as follows: Post No. 1947, to Burnsville-Eagan-Apple Valley, Minnesota

11. Certificates of Charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 11 and 4356 consolidated as Post 11, Columbus, Ohio; Posts 3597, 6220 and 7578 consolidated as Post 3597, John Day, Ore.; Posts 7167 and 9897 consolidated as Post 7167, Warsaw, Va.; Posts 7880 and 10547 consolidated as Post 7880, Aschaffenburg, Germany; Posts 6965 and 8695 consolidated as Post 8695, Marmora, N.J.; Posts 3685 and 9301 consolidated as Post 9301, Lynden, Wash.

12. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 9501 - King William, Va.; Post No. 9502 - Wild Rose, Wis.; Post No. 9519 - Andover, Ohio; Post No. 9549 - Georgetown, Ill.; Post No. 9613 - Brandermill, Va.; Post No. 9624 - Crestline, Calif.; Post No. 9638 - Galmey, Mo.; Post No. 9655 - Fox Lake, Ill.; Post No. 9672 - Nashville, Tenn.; Post No. 9707 - Woodbine, Iowa; Post No. 9731 - Missouri Valley, Iowa; Post No. 9735 - Perry, Ohio; Post No. 9755 - Washington, D.C.; Post No. 9757 - Greene, N.Y.; Post No. 9767 - Ransonville, N.Y.; Post No. 9780 - Klien, Texas; Post No. 9790 - Milford, Ill.; Post No. 9794 - Westville, Ill.; Post No. 9805 - Rustburg, Va.; Post No. 9810 - Warsaw, N.C.; Post No. 9826 - Rocky Point, N.C.; Post No. 9846 - Sabinal, Texas; Post No. 9979 - Belmont, N.C.

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C L A I M S

35th Div., 134th Inf. Rgt., 2nd Bn., HQ Co., Comm. Platoon—Seeking Lt. James Gaines, Sgt. John Miller or anyone else who knew I received a concussion from rocket shell and partial hearing loss—Frank Onisko, 231 N. Hamilton Ave., Greensburg PA 15601.

Americal Div., 3/1st 11th Inf., A Co. (Vietnam, 1967-68)—Seeking anyone who remembers my med. evac. from L.Z. Liz, esp. Cpt. Patrick Trinkle and 1st Sgt. Donald Bracy—K. Dean LeMond, 706 Westwood Dr., Fairfield IL 62837.

HQ & HQ Co., European Command Engr. School (Murnau, Germany, 1950)—Seeking anyone who remembers my health problems—Theodore K. Fish, 85 6th Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746.

746th ROB (ETO 1944-46)—Seeking anyone who remembers my ailments, including frozen feet—William C. Parhan, 1325 Beal St., Rocky Mount NC 27801.

82 Abn. Div., 1/17th Cav., Trp. B (Vietnam, 1969)—Seeking anyone, esp. any medic, who remembers me being burned on the hands and eyes by a trip flair in the iron triangle at Ben Cat. Would like to hear from any doctor/dentist at Ton Son Nhut Air Base or from Ronnie Todd and Eddie Morrow—Tommy D. Parrish, Rte. 8 Box 189, Shawnee OK 74801.

187th Engr. Combat Bn., Co. C (1943-45)—Seeking anyone from unit—Charles McGuire, 4909 Banner Rd S.E., Port Orchard WA 98366.

7th Div., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. HQ Co. (Korea, 1953-55)—Seeking anyone that had a case of hemorrhagic fever in Korean conflict—Rex Piper, RR1 Box 145, Hot Springs SD 57747.

447th Signal Bn., Co. A (Cons. APO 189, Germany, 1956)—Seeking Capt. Ludac, Legal Officer, concerning discharge he handled in 1956—William Ezell, Rt. 3 Box 238, Theodore AL 36582.

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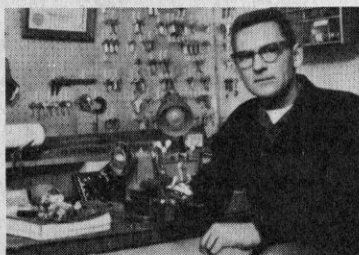
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CLAIMS

COAST GUARD

USCG Unit 35 N920 (1944)—Seeking anyone in unit, esp. C.O.—Daniel Gatewood, Box 65 R 2, Carthage NC 28327.

MARINES

DMZ Police (1953-55)—Seeking anyone who knew me—Joseph Wallace, 1548 Patagonia Rd. Box 4, Nogales AZ 85621.

NAVY

USS Adair, 1022 NCB (Philippines, 1945)—Seeking anyone who remembers me—Arnold (Swede from Minn.) Hams, 6535d SE 69, Portland OR 97206.

USS Bairoko (CVE 115)—Seeking anyone who recalls a bus accident enroute from Bremerton WA to Tacoma WA on Hwy. 16 S. This accident involved a company enroute to a new ship and occurred at 1000 hrs. on 12 May 45—William F. Paton, 117 E. 6th St., Red Wing MN 55066.

28th NCB, 1040 Det. (Davisville RI, 1942-45)—Seeking anyone who remembers me in Rome, Italy and the name of the hosp. in Rome—Thomas Fraser, 2702 Old Easley Bridge Rd. 22, Greenville SC 29611.

USS LSM 229 (WWII)—Seeking anyone remembering when I was loading a 20mm gun and got knocked to the deck—Ernest Savin, 505 Pima Ave., Farmington NM.

REUNIONS

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six month prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

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April

5th AF, 13th Bomb. Sqdn. (WWII)—P.C. Billac, 43 Cornus Dr., Savannah GA 31406.

53rd Grp., 14th Fr. Sqdn. (Panama & Florida, WWII)—Robert Johnston, 6031 Hollywood Blvd., Sarasota FL 33581.

436 Trp. Carrier Grp., 82nd Trp. Carrier Sqdn.—Las Vegas—Mel Pliner, SR 2 Box 10N, Pagosa Springs CO 81147.

Navigation School (Ellington AFB TX, 12 Oct 1950)—Clarke Lampard, 5830 Robin Hill Dr #2, Lakeport CA 95453.

P-47 Pilots—Las Vegas—Harvey Victor, Western P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots, 22110 Victory Blvd., Suite C-314, Woodland Hills CA 91367.

Selman Field—Barbara Brown, 1333 State Farm Dr., Monroe LA 71202.

May

11th Service Sqdn., 482nd Service Sqdn., 8th Service Grp., HQ Sqdn. (WWII)—Lancaster PA—John Hecker, 76 E. Harbor Dr., Teaticket MA 02536.

73rd Bomb Wing Reunion (Saipan, WWII)—New Orleans—73rd Bomb Wing Assn., 105 Circle Dr., Universal City TX 78148.

320th Air Refueling Sqdn.—Herman Benton, 6252 Hamilton Ct., Chino CA 91710.

382nd Bomb. Grp. (Pocatello ID & Muroc CA)—Eugene Loy, 4412 Genny Lynn Dr., Knoxville TN 37918.

451st Bomb. Grp. (H) (Italy)—Robert Karstensen, 1032 S. State St., Marnage IL 60152.

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REUNIONS

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45th HQ & HQ Service Sqdn. (WWII)—Russ Morrison, 917 S. 7th St., Brainerd MN 56401.
B-58 Hustler Assn.—B-58 Assn., POB 26058, Fort Worth TX 76116.

ALL BRANCHES

February

Caterpillar Assn. of the U.S.—Ft. Myers FL—Johnny Brown, POB 1321, Kenosha WI 53141.

March

Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn.—Frank Nolan, 11855 NE 19 Dr. 14, N. Miami FL 33181.

April

Selman Field (WWII)—Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1333 State Farm Dr., Monroe LA 71202.

May

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor—Ralph Levenberg, POB 337, Henderson NV 89015.
VFW Post 7243 (40th Anniv.)—Hawaiian Gardens & Artesia CA—Ron Branham, 22306 Funston Ave., Hawaiian Gardens CA 90716.

June

6th District Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn.—J.W. West, 444 Tracy Grove Rd., Hendersonville NC 28739.
Persian Gulf Command Veterans Org.—Edward Packard, 213 St. Ann, Rapid City SD 57701.

ARMY

March

4th Inf. Div., 3rd Brigade (Fire Support Base GOLD, Suoi Tre, RVN)—Fort Carson CO—Larry Moss, POB 775, Ferriday LA 71334.

April

5th Army, 85th QM Depot Supply Co. (Ft. Custer, England, N. Africa & Italy WWII)—Thomas Stewart, POB 237, Galveston IN 46932.

11th Abn. Div., Western States Chapter—11th Abn. Div. 1986 Convention, c/o Hacienda Hotel, 2550 W. Clinton Ave., Fresno CA.

24th Inf. Div., 21st Inf. Rgt., Co. I (Korea, 1950-51)—Hugh Brown, Jefferson Circle, Athens GA 30601.

601st T.D. Bn. (WWII)—Harry Rogove, 1801 Willow Grove Ave., Philadelphia PA 19118.

May

2nd Armd. Div., 92nd Armd. FA Bn.—John Gerrard, 2103 Shelmire Ave., Philadelphia PA 19152.

11th Armd. Cav. Rgt.—Secretary, POB 11, Ft. Knox KY 40121.

74th Engr. (LP) Co. (WWII)—Atlanta—George Walker, 317 Lorraine St., N. Bellmore NY 11710.

78th Div., 309th Inf. Rgt., Co. E—Frank Reynolds, 62 Kohlwood Dr., Rochester NY 14617.

86th Chem. Mortar Bn.—John Deasy, 1830-30th Ave., San Francisco CA 94122.

245th Engr. C Bn.—Charlie Spinner, 300 Sheffield Ct., Joppa MD 21085.

252nd Port Co. (TC)—Conway AR—David Laird, 201 E. Holley Dr., Kentland IN 47951.

456th AAA (AW) Bn., Btry. V—Anthony DiGiandomenico, 2359 Ryan Rd., Newark OH 43056.

475th AAA AW Bn. (WWII)—Bill Cochrane, 1608 E. Hemlock Dr., Allison Park PA 15101.

557th AAA Bn. Assn.—Somerset PA—Louis Edell, 2904 Oakcrest Ave., Baltimore MD 21234.

559th S.A.W. Bn., Co. A (Guam, WWII)—Williamsburg-Mike Gregorio, 7 Walden Place, Huntington NY 11743.

876th Abn. Engr. Avn. Bn.—William Patterson, 50 S. Schenley, Youngstown OH 44509.

1631st Engr. Const. Bn., Co. B (WWII)—Anthony Devita, R.D. 1 Box 126, Effort PA 18330.

June

5th Inf. Div., 10th Inf. Rgt. A Co.—Dayton—Gene Highsmith, RR 1 Box 148 A, Piercetown, IN 46562.

20th Tank Bn., Co. A—Lee Froneyberger, 3833 Bowen St., St. Louis, MO 63116.

28th Div., 103rd Engr. (C) Bn.—Charles McFarland, Rt. 1 Box 84, Marietta OH 45750.

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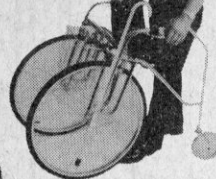
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29th Div., 115th Inf., Co. B—Georgie Piennier, 21 Woodpoint Ave., Hagerstown MD 21740.

37th Div., 1st Bn., 129th Inf. (WWII)—Varlan Vancil, 305 West Main, Sparta IL 62286.

64th Signal Bn., 3112th Signal Service Bn. & 250th Signal Service Co.—Bethlehem PA—William Rathgeb, 136 Country Club Blvd., Tuckerton NJ 08087.

75th CA (AA), Btrys. A & I—Orlando Warp, 1893 Cottonville Ave., Star Route, Arkdale, WI 54613.

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342d Armd. FA Bn., Btry. B—Colorado Springs—Eugene Schumacher, Box 312, Mallard, IA 50562.

395th AA—Al Johnson, 7846 Thon Dr., Verona PA 15147.

436th Sig. Const. Bn. Avn. (WWII)—Kearney, NE—Ron Rehnberg, Rte. 4, Holdrege, NE 68949.

551st Parachute Inf. Bn.—San Diego—E.F. Schroeder, 6111 E. Montecito, Fresno CA 93727.

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764th RW Shop Bn. (WWII)—Bucyrus OH—Anthony Fell, 230 Debolt Ave., Masontown, PA 15461.

900th Abn. Engr. Co.—St. Louis—John Carlson, POB 719, Roscommon MI 48653.

3487th Ord. (MAM) Co. (North Africa & ETO, WWII)—Grady Russell, 335 Tophill, San Antonio TX 98209.

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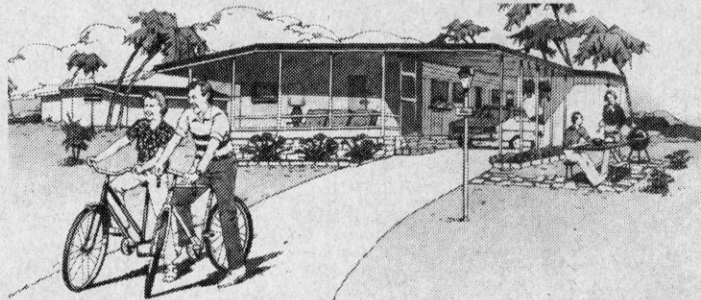
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USCG LST-793—New Orleans—Raymond Rhodes,
 300 Wright Ave., Houma LA 70364.

MARINES

February
3rd Marine Div. Assn. (Guam, Saipan & Tinian, WWII)—
 Marianas—Cyril J. O'Brien, 10004 Reddick Dr., Silver
 Spring MD 20901.
Iwo Jima Veterans—Greensboro NC—Peggy Weath-
 ers, 933 Tracy Lee Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70820.

NAVY

April
24th NCB—Huntsville AL—Ken Welch, RD 7 Box 392,
 Fulton NY 13069.
Tin Can Sailors, Inc.—Richard Rowley, 121 Bradley
 Dr., Jackson MI 49201.
USS Alabama BB-60 (SSBN731)—Mobile—John
 Brown, POB 501, Keller TX 76248.
USS LSM 266—Orlando—Ed Metcalf, 2015 Airfield
 Ln., Midland MI 48640.
USS Mercy (WWII)—John Woods, 3105 Radcliff Dr.,
 Billings MT 59101.

May
SACO (USN Grp., China)—Scottsdale AZ—Carl Divil-
 biss, 2600 N. Central Ave., Suite 626, Phoenix AZ
 85004.
**South China Patrol Assn. (USS Asheville, USS Sacra-
 mento, USS Tulsa & others)**—Eugene Mayer, 29
 Washington Sq. N., Box 3064, Salem MA 01970-3064.
USS Achernar AKA-53—Charleston SC—Carol Pres-
 ton, 1491 Longbrook Dr., Cullman AL 35055.
USS Biloxi CL-80—Sarasota FL—Hugh Eubank, 6517
 Royal Woods Dr. S.W., Fort Myers FL 33908.
USS Chicagos CA-29, CA-136, CG-11 & SSN-721—Nor-
 folk VA—M.E. Kramer, 41 Homestead Dr., Youngs-
 town OH 44512.
USS Holland AS-3 (WWII)—Las Vegas—Raymond
 Prinz, 801 3rd St., Whitehall PA 18052.

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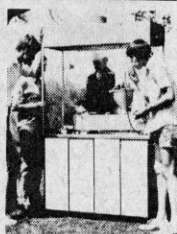
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USS LSM 44—Norfolk VA—Tony Winkler, 4376 Ewing Ave., N. Robbinsdale MN 55422.

USS LST 668—Pittsburgh—Austin Kurtz, 906 Linden St., Clearfield PA 16830.

USS Stribling DD-867—Norfolk—Edgar Burris, RD#1 Box 27, Tidoupe PA 16351.

USS Ticonderoga (CV, CVA, CVS-14 & CG-47)—Philadelphia—John Sweatlock, 18418 Orangecrest Ct., Lehigh Acres FL 33936.

VPB-52—Orlando—Saul Frishberg, 1021 Jeffrey Dr., Southampton PA 18966.

VPB-116—Pensacola—Philip Smith, 1100 L St., NW, Suite 11504, Washington DC 20573.

June

136th NCB—Boise—Ralph Harrison, 837 Millwood Rd., Broken Arrow OK 74011.

Navy 3115—Cub 10 All Divs.—Hiram Taylor, 7111 Peppermill Ln., Louisville KY 40228.

USS Alaska CB-1—Buffalo—Charles St. George, 25 Leon Place, Fredonia NY 14063.

USS Amsterdam—Amsterdam NY—Bob Tripp, 28 William St., Hornell NY 14843.

USS Hornet Club, Inc.—St. Petersburg—Connie Masse, POB 277, Rehoboth MA 02769.

USS LCI (6) 442—Des Moines—Art Dillon, 1887 Morin Dr., Bay City MI 48708.

USS LST-957—Daytona Beach—John Howard, 2939 Carriage Dr., South Daytona FL 32019.

USS Miami CL-89—Charleston SC—Betty Duff, 9 Driftwood Lane Box 2200, Ocean Pines, Berlin MD 21811.

USS North Carolina—Wilmington NC—Charlie Rosell, 15 Ellen Ave., Mt. Pleasant SC 29464.

USS Pine Island AV-12 Assn.—Jacksonville FL—Frank Gorthy, Box 416, Evert MI 49631.

USS Wadleigh DD-689—Portland ME—Charles Nash, Desert Pines Estates, Freeport ME 04032.

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5th AF, 60th Air Depot Grp. HQ (WWII)—Reunion?—Lawrence Hester, RD 2 Box 3, Danville PA 17821.
12th AF, 1072nd Sig. Co. (WWII)—Seeking Robert B. Hammond (UT), Stanley J. Gola (MA), John D. Wilson (PA).—Joseph Katarshy, 4269 Lapham, Dearborn MI 48126.

469th Bomb. Sqdn. & 333d Bomb. Grp. (WWII)—Reunion?—Eugene A. Owens, Jr., 3269 Feather Ridge Rd., Toddville IA 52341.

15th AF (Austria & Hungary, 1943-44)—Seeking Richard Bridges.—Glenn Loveland, 1406 Myrtle Ave., Ashland OH 44004.

410th Ftr. Sqdn. (WWII)—Reunion?—Terry Carlson, 2710 N. Monticello, Chicago IL 60647.

308th Airdrome Sqdn. (WWII)—Reunion?—Elwood Becker, 351 Poplar St., Hanover PA 17331.

Torpedo Sqdn. 153 (WWII)—Reunion?—Joseph R. Harrell, 625 Boardman Rd., Aiken SC 29802

50th Air Base Grp., HQ & HQ Sqdn.—Reunion?—Edgar Quillen, 201 Kyle St., Kingsport TN 37665.

17th Sig. Opns. Bn., Co. B (WWII)—Seeking William McCollum—Charles Kohl, 93-95 Rue Lois Pasteur, 4633 Melen, Belgium.

85th Inf. Div., 339th Inf. Regt., Co. C—Reunion?—Howard Moyer, 1502 Conkling Ave., Utica NY 13501.

120th Med. Bn., Co. B (WWII)—Seeking anyone who knew Vaughn (Slim) Fitzgerald.—Sara Fitzgerald, Box 12, Snyderburg PA 16257.

5th AF, 565th SAW Bn. (WWII)—Seeking John E. Con (NY) & others.—Marin L. Rollins, 432 Southfordham, Aurora IL 60506.

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SEEKING

4th Defense Bn., H Battery, 50 Caliber (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)—Reunion?—Robert Benoit, 25 Hunthurst Circle, Worcester MA.

20th AF, HQ & HQ 21st Bomb. Cmd., 369th Svc. Grp., Q.M. Sqdn., 33rd Photo, Mtr. Pool & M.P. (Guam, 1943-45)—Reunion?—Landis Ickes, POB 252, Osterburg Pa. 16667.

24th Evac. Hosp. (Vietnam)—Reunion?—Lawrence Horn, POB 430, Bridgton ME 04009.

1st Cav., 5th Rgt., Co. C (Japan & Korea, 1948-50)—Reunion?—Fred Belmer, 1908 Crestbrook, Flint MI.

85th Inf. Div., 3d Bn., HQ Co.—Seeking John C. Ryan (WA)—Algie Salis, 6256 Spring Hammock Rd., Jacksonville FL 32226.

236th QM Corps (WWII)—Reunion?—Stuart Warner, 1779 Maple Ave., Palmyra NY 14522.

44th Div., 156th FA Bn., HQ Btry. (1944-5)—Seeking Hugh J. Reece (MN)—Charles Clark, POB 6, Hiram ME 04041.

5th Inf. Div., 10th Inf. Rgt., Co. D, 3d Plt. (1948-9)—Reunion?—Frank Malphurs, 2441 Plum St., Montgomery AL 35107.

GHQ-AFPAC—Reunion?—Ben Reynolds, Box 19503, Houston TX 77224.

USS LCF 12 (1943-4), USS LCS 28 (1944-5) & USS Creon (1946-7)—Reunion?—Fred Bors, 1665 Cedar Ct., Bellbrook OH 45305.

USS Rigel (WWII)—Reunion?—C.E. Roberts, 135 Gayle Rd., Blytheville AR 72315.

USS Goss DE-444—Reunion?—Ben D'Antino, 5658 S. New England, Chicago IL 60638.

USS Boxer—Reunion?—Noel Ray, Box 167, North-bend NE 68649.

USS Gatling DD-671—Reunion?—Harry Hawkins, Rte. 1 Box 356, Bushnell FL 33513.

All LSTs (Korean War & WWII)—Reunion?—US LST Assn., POB 8769, Toledo OH 43623.

5th AF Memorial Foundation—5AF Memorial Foundation, POB 764, Columbus NC 28722.

USS Astoria CL-90—Reunion?—Earl Henderson, Box 107, St. James MN 56081.

USS Fiske DDR-842—Reunion?—Clifford Myers, 53 Old Fort Rd., Newport RI 02840.

USS Thetis Bay CVE-90—Reunion?—Tom DeCarlo, 320 S. Suffolk St., Ironwood MI 49938.

USS Forrester OER-334 (1967-69)—Seeking anyone who knew Kenneth B. Anderson, Electricians Mate 3rd Class—Linnea Ekman, 1114 W. Schley, Ab. WA 98520.

129th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII)—Reunion?—Dale Riley, 3119 Dupont Ave N., Minneapolis MN 55411.

391st Bomb Grp.—Reunion?—James Higgins, 20 Center St., Freehold NJ 07728.

17th Major Port (WWII)—Michael Brown, 462 72nd St, Brooklyn NY 11209.

Ft. Campbell Ky. Hospital, Amputee Ward (Dec 52-Aug 53)—Seeking Wendell Cox & Childers (KY), Wilbur Burr (GA) and Steve Tomitchco (PA)—George Webb, 205 Dogwood Ln., Fairview Hts. IL 62208.

USS Mazama AE-9 (1944-47)—Robert Nelson, 6585 NE 1st Pl., Ocala FLA 32671.

508th MP Bn. (1945 and later)—Reunion?—C. Van Gemert, 8 Waterview Dr., Amherst NH 03031.

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Fearful

The frustrated would-be bride told her grandmother, "I'm afraid my boyfriend has cold feet."

"Goodness," replied the grandmother, "in my day, we didn't find that out until after marriage."

Helpful

"Is everyone on board?" shouted the bus driver. "No," a woman called. "Let me get my clothes on." As several young men rushed to help, the young lady hopped on board dragging her laundry basket behind her.

One Size

The salesman went into a roadside restaurant and told the waiter, "I'll have a steak sandwich, medium."

The waiter said, "I'm sorry. It only comes in one size."

"This should end all the jokes about me not being able to get into my old wedding dress."

No Sale

A customer wrote to a book publisher: "I never ordered the blasted book. If I did, you didn't send it. If you sent it, I never got it. If I got it, I paid for it. If I didn't, I won't."

Stranger

A man shared a bus seat one morning with a pretty young woman who was wearing a scent that struck him as particularly appealing. "I beg your pardon," he said, "but would you mind telling me the name of that perfume? I'd like to buy some for my wife."

After looking him up and down haughtily, she told him. Then, rising to leave the bus, she added, "I wouldn't buy it for her, if I were you. If you do, all kinds of strange men will be trying to talk to her."



"I sure hate to see you go, Bugley. You just can't hire people for such a low salary any more."

Amen

Attending a church in Kentucky, we watched an especially verbal child being hurried out, slung under his irate father's arm. Just as they got to the door, the child had one last thing to say, "Y'all pray for me, now!"

Guessing

"What happened to you?" asked a man surveying his friend's bandaged nose.

"I got it broken," the friend replied. "I called a fellow at three in the morning and when he got out of bed and answered the phone, I said, 'Guess who?'"

"But how did you get a broken nose?"

"He guessed who."

Unemployed

"How did you lose your job at the dress shop?"

"Well, after trying on about 25 dresses, the customer said, 'I think I'd look nicer in something flowing,' so I suggested the river."

Sleep

A stockbroker called on one of his clients to ascertain how things were faring. He asked, "How are you getting along?" The client replied, "Oh, I'm just sleeping like a baby." The broker said, "I'm glad to hear that." Client said, "Yes, I'm sleeping like a baby. . . every three or four hours I wake up during the night and cry."

